

Marconi v Sydney Olympic — Special Grand Final issue

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY

AUSTRALIAN

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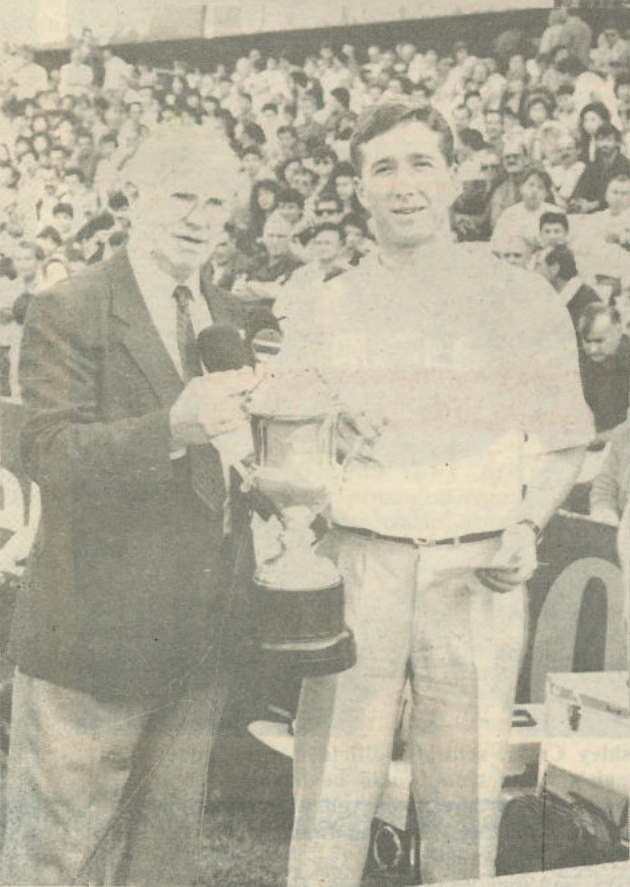
AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY



Clash of the Titans! Robert Ironside (left) Sydney Olympic and Alan Davidson (Melbourne Croatia).

RECORD CROWD SET FOR GRAND FINAL

Stories and pictures inside ➡



ABOVE: Francis Awaritefe pots in Melbourne Croatia's goal on Sunday at Parramatta Stadium, but his team lost 2-1 to Sydney Olympic. Goalkeeper Clint Gosling makes a valiant effort to save, watched by (from left) David Barrett, Andrew



Bernal and John Markovski. AT LEFT: ASW/Bayswater Indoor Centre Player of the Year and ASW/Reusch Goalkeeper of the Year John Filan receives his goodies from ASW Editor Keith Gilmour.

IF YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT YOUR SOCCER — You'll buy ASW all winter!

Big Players' Award tussle

BY GREG BLAKE

ST George champion rookie goalkeeper John Filan might have run away with ASW's first Player of the Year Award but Filan wasn't out on his own as far as champions are concerned.

The list of true champions in contention for the first ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre QNSL Player of the Year Award was impressive.

We at ASW believe the only fair system to decide the best and most consistent players in the competition was the method we instituted this season whereby every player featuring in an NSL game was given a rating between 1 and 10 in each game played.

A player must poll votes in at least 20 of 26 games to remain in the running and players sent off receive no votes for that particular game.

Thus fair play and consistency as well as overall ability are rewarded. Total votes were tallied and averaged at the end of Round 26. On that basis, here is the final list of the top 100 players to feature in QNSL action this season.

6.92 - J Filan (StG)
6.73 - T McCulloch (Marc)
6.68 - G Arnold (SC)
6.62 - R Catlin (Marc)
6.56 - G Jolevski (PM)
6.54 - C Gosling (SO)



ASW Player and Goalkeeper of the Year John Filan is airborne for another save in the course of the regular season. Eying the ball is his St George team-mate Andy Koczka — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

6.52 - D Lowe (Marc), M Durakovic (SMH)
6.46 - A McPherson (ME), G Brown (ME)
6.44 - T Pezzano (Apia)
6.43 - C Moffitt (StG), G Phillips (SO)
6.42 - A Bundalo (Apia)
6.35 - R Wheatley (Marc)
6.33 - B Milosevic (MC)
6.32 - A Tobin (AdC)
6.30 - Z Adzic (MC), D Skeen (Woll)
6.29 - A Genc (ME), B Halliday (Apia)
6.27 - G Hannah (MC)
6.24 - W Gonzalez (ME)
6.23 - S Keogh (SGC), R Ironside (SO), A Kidd (AdH), P Tsolakis (SMH)

6.19 - T Krslovic (StG), R Hooker (SO)
6.17 - R Slager (AdH), D Crainie (Woll)
6.15 - B MacLaren (SMH)
6.13 - A Marth (MC), S Calderan (Marc), F de Jong (Marc)
6.12 - B Heirn (AdH), M Jones (SC), R Zabica (AdC)
6.10 - M Petersen (SMH)
6.09 - G Lee (SO)
6.08 - S Clinch (Apia), D Barrett (SO), S Blair (SMH)
6.05 - A Vidmar (AdC), P Katholos (Marc)
6.00 - M Soper (ME), J van Blerk (Apia), P Traianedes (PM), D Seal (SC), J Mullen (AdC)
5.96 - P McFadden (Woll), C Veart (AdC), J Callanan (ME)
5.95 - P Trimboli (SMH), M Lamond (SC)
5.92 - A Santrac (AdC)
5.90 - B Ellem (Apia), R Vlietstra (Woll)
5.88 - R Markovac (PM)
5.87 - G van Egmond (Marc)
5.85 - A Barrios (ME), P Wade (SMH)
5.84 - S Maxwell (AdC)
5.83 - D Stewart (Apia)
5.82 - J de Marigny (Marc), D Healy (SMH)
5.79 - D Green (StG), C

Ketsakidis (SGC), G Jennings (Apia), J Gibson (Black)
5.78 - K Taliadoros (SMH)
5.75 - P Carter (Black)
5.73 - S Georgakis (SO)
5.72 - M O'Shea (StG)
5.69 - R Blair (AdH)
5.68 - A Zinni (PM)
5.67 - S Melta (AdC)
5.65 - P Shillabeer (AdC), S Parton (SGC), C Mason (ME)
5.64 - P Ricoy (SC), A Hunter (SC)
5.61 - G Gunning (Black)
5.60 - Z Hristovski (Woll)
5.59 - I Roodhouse (PM)
5.58 - C Yankos (Black), D Ratcliffe (Woll)
5.54 - M Bingley (StG)
5.52 - S Jackson (PM), Z Tacevski (PM), M Ivanovich (AdC)
5.48 - Z Arambasic (Black)
5.45 - K Reynolds (AdH)
5.43 - P Foster (SGC)
5.40 - P Murray (Apia), D Northam (Black)
5.39 - Z Ilic (StG)
5.38 - A Saad (SO), A Harper (StG), R Maier (Black)

Actually, selecting a team of the year from

Crowds up for summer soccer

BY DAVID SMEDLEY

IF public response is any indication of success, and by rights it should be one of the best indicators, the QUIT National Soccer League's first summer season was just that.

The 26 regular season rounds of the 1989/90 season attracted an official total attendance of 538,474 spectators — an increase of 32 percent on last season.

By official, we mean that crowds were based on the figures that appeared in the hand-outs released by the NSL every week, not the inflated attendances given out by still far too many clubs.

If you divide the 538,474 spectators by the 26 rounds played, one arrives at a very respectable figure of 20,771 fans per QNSL round.

This is still way off the attendance figures reached in the late 1970s when the NSL was in its infancy, but it is a darned sight better than last year's official total regular season attendance of 419,000.

As well as a change in seasons, a switch to Sunday evenings resulted in Adelaide City attracting the biggest crowds in the QNSL as they averaged almost 5,000 spectators a game in their return season to Hindmarsh Stadium — more than double the previous season's figures.

City's crosstown rivals, Hellas, despite

being relegated, also benefited from summer night football; averaging some 3,000 home fans.

And when the two clubs met, they drew the largest crowd of the regular season — 10,556.

In fact, every club except Preston had a spectator percentage increase this season.

While Preston's attendances nosedived because of their mediocre results, Melbourne Croatia's zoomed at their well appointed Somers Street complex.

They were second only to Adelaide City in the spectator stakes, averaging 4,778 per match.

Marconi were the best supported side at home in Sydney where even Sydney Croatia, despite a very bad start to the season, finished ahead of Sydney Olympic.

But even Olympic's crowds were up six percent on last season which, let us not forget, was one of the wettest ever in NSW, with dozens of games rescheduled because of the rain.

The bad weather this season only affected a couple of rounds.

So it was not surprising that last season's attendance figures were exceptionally low.

Thus, this season's increase in crowds has to be put in the right perspective, but even so summer soccer has proved very successful in its own right.

National Second Division mooted

THE Australian Soccer Federation is said to be contemplating the creation of a Second Division competition.

The five ASF commissioners are looking into the matter.

One recommendation under review is for the various State Leagues to become NSL and ASF-affiliated Second Division competitions, with the winners playing off for QNSL status at the end of their season.

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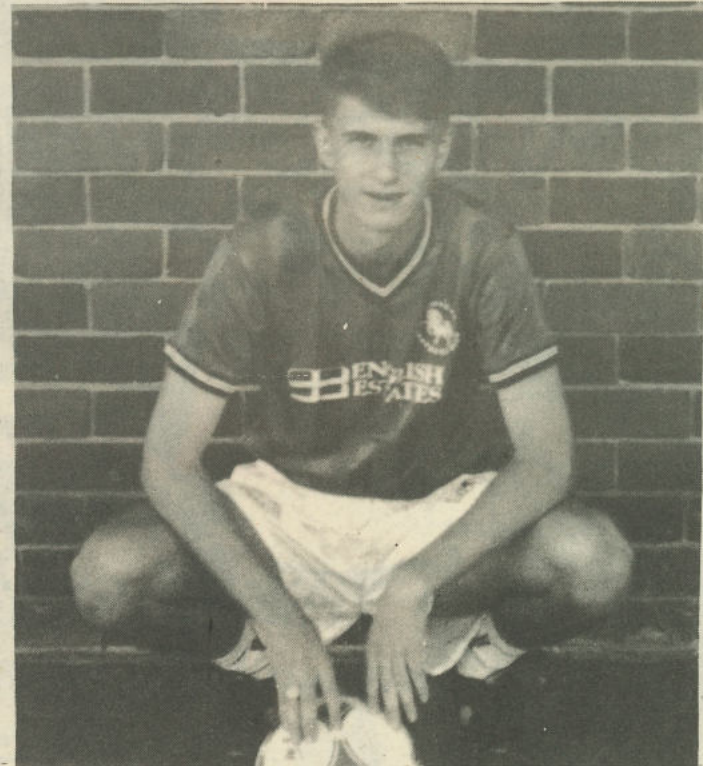
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Ashley Cross, central midfielder with Sydney Olympic's youth team, could be heading off to England. He has already played with the youth teams of Bristol City (Div 3) and Gillingham (Div 4). With Gillingham he had two games in the reserves, and they want him back. Cross, now 17, was born in England and came to Australia with his family when eight years of age.

He spent two years as a junior with the Blacktown City youth league teams.

Olympic to win grand final by a whisker

BY LOU GAUTIER

HAVING defied all odds to qualify for their second consecutive QNSL grand final, Sydney Olympic, with the adrenalin pumping, are on a

roll and it will take all the guile of defending champions Marconi to deny them the title at Parramatta Stadium on Sunday.

The match is a repeat of last year's grand final, which Marconi only won with seconds to spare.

And for the third straight season, Melbourne clubs find themselves on the outer as Sydney battles for NSL supremacy.

You can take it from me that Sunday's season finale will be just that — a battle that will again go down the wire.

Can Sydney Olympic win their fourth play-off game on the trot, or will the experience and poise of the reigning champions see them through to an unprecedented third consecutive championship?

A crowd as large if not bigger than last season's 23,000 is expected to be on hand to find out.

After walking the tightrope of sudden death finals for three weeks, Olympic's morale will be an all-time high.

Marconi, who have only had to play one game to reach their third straight grand final, might not have benefitted from the lay-off.

On paper, Marconi have the bigger name players in that department, with Ian Gray and Tommy McCulloch outstanding, but brilliant young Steve Refenes, an exciting talent, has lifted Sydney Olympic's middle line to the extent that it now matches any club's, including Marconi.

Olympic appear to be faster in defence where their fullbacks are more adventurous, but Marconi have such a wealth of experience in big matches that they may have more poise, especially in the opening minutes, which will be decisive.

Marconi have yet to find a replacement for ace marksman Zlatko Nastic.

Goals no longer come as easily for the champions, who now have to rely on their midfielders' scoring rate.

With Abbas Saad and Alistair Edwards, Olympic have a decided edge in finishing power, and that could show on Sunday.

Sydney Olympic will probably start as underdogs because one has to respect Marconi's re-

Coaches plot grand final tactics

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY Olympic coach Mick Hickman again showed very little emotion when asked about Sunday's grand final against champions Marconi at Parramatta Stadium.

"Obviously during the week I will get the Olympic lads together and re-evaluate the Marconi squad.

"They have won two grand finals on the trot, have a stable club, with a stable bunch of players.

"They warrant respect. Our players must get their feet back down on the ground after last Sunday's solid win against Melbourne Croatia.

"There is another big job yet to be done on Sunday.

"Marconi has many talented players but let's not mess about — their huge strength is in their midfield.

"Here they are very strong and will give us a great tussle.

"People like Ian Gray, Tommy McCulloch, etc are big-match players.

"After a series of tough games over the past four weeks, I gave my lads Monday and last night off from training. We will train tonight and see from there what's what.



Sydney Olympic's revelation of the season — midfielder Steve Refenes — in action in the preliminary final — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

"Grant Lee and Robbie Hooker have a couple of strains and Abbas Saad took some decent whacks last Sunday."

Hickman has performed miracles with the turbulent Sydney Olympic to get them into the grand final as well as the NSL Cup final this season despite all the odds stacked against them.

Meanwhile, Marconi's philosophical manager-coach, Berti Mariani, told us: "Olympic is a good, fast

side and likes to play it open, just like us.

"It will be good to meet them again as we did last season in the grand final and I am sure we will see a top action-packed game.

As always, Mariani was coy about his tactical plans.

"We will just have to wait and see, won't we?" was the well-versed Mariani reply.

The NSL expects a crowd of 20,000-plus on Sunday and have planned a colourful programme for the big day.

Heat builds up for NSL Awards

BY TED SIMMONS (AAP)



Greg Brown

NATIONAL Soccer League newcomer Greg Brown has won a place in the final nominees for the NSL Player of the Year.

League general manager Peter Russell has released the final nominations for the Player of the Year, the Under 21 Player of the Year and Coach of the Year.

The winners will be announced at the NSL annual dinner in Adelaide on May 26.

New Zealander Brown, the Parramatta Melita striker, has been joined in the awards list by his club coach Raul Blanco who took Melita to State League honours and NSL promotion last year.

Brown was leading goal scorer in the league until the final round when he was passed by Sydney Croatia's David Seal.

He finished with 14 goals after topping the NSW State League goalscoring list last year.

Minor premier Marconi is represented in the best player chase by midfielders Tom McCulloch and Ian Gray with Melbourne Croatia pair Zeljko Adzic and Branko Milosevic completing the list.

Adzic is now playing for Dinamo Zagreb in the Yugoslav first division.

St George goalkeeper John Filan, who has been in outstanding form for the Sydney club, faces a strong challenge for the Under 21 award.

The other contenders are David Seal, Marconi's Paul Okon, George Jolevski of Preston and Adelaide City striker Carl Veart.

Probably the most difficult to select will be the top coach with candidates Blanco, Berti Mariani (Marconi), Ferenc Puskas (South Melbourne), Ivan Raznjevic (Melbourne Croatia) and Manfred Schaefer (Apia Leichhardt).

Blanco took his newly promoted team to a respectable eighth position after being tipped for relegation at the start of the season.

Raznjevic has qualified for the semi-finals for the second successive year, Schaefer just failed on goal differences to make the top five while Puskas in his first season at South Melbourne has won the NSL Cup and reached the top five.

Mariani has again won the minor premiership and is shooting for his third successive NSL championship.



Melbourne Croatia defender George Hannah tangles with Sydney Olympic dangerman Alistair Edwards in last weekend's QNSL preliminary final at Parramatta Stadium. Edwards will be one of his team's trump cards against Marconi.

But Olympic, certainly, appear to have thrived on their killing programme of the past three and a half weeks, which included no less than six matches.

Most games are won or lost in the midfield, and the 1989/90 grand final will be no exception.

cord and their ability to lift themselves in big occasions, but for my money it's Olympic by a whisker.

I expect their long-suffering fans to be celebrating the club's first NSL title come 4.45pm on Sunday, provided there is no extra-time.

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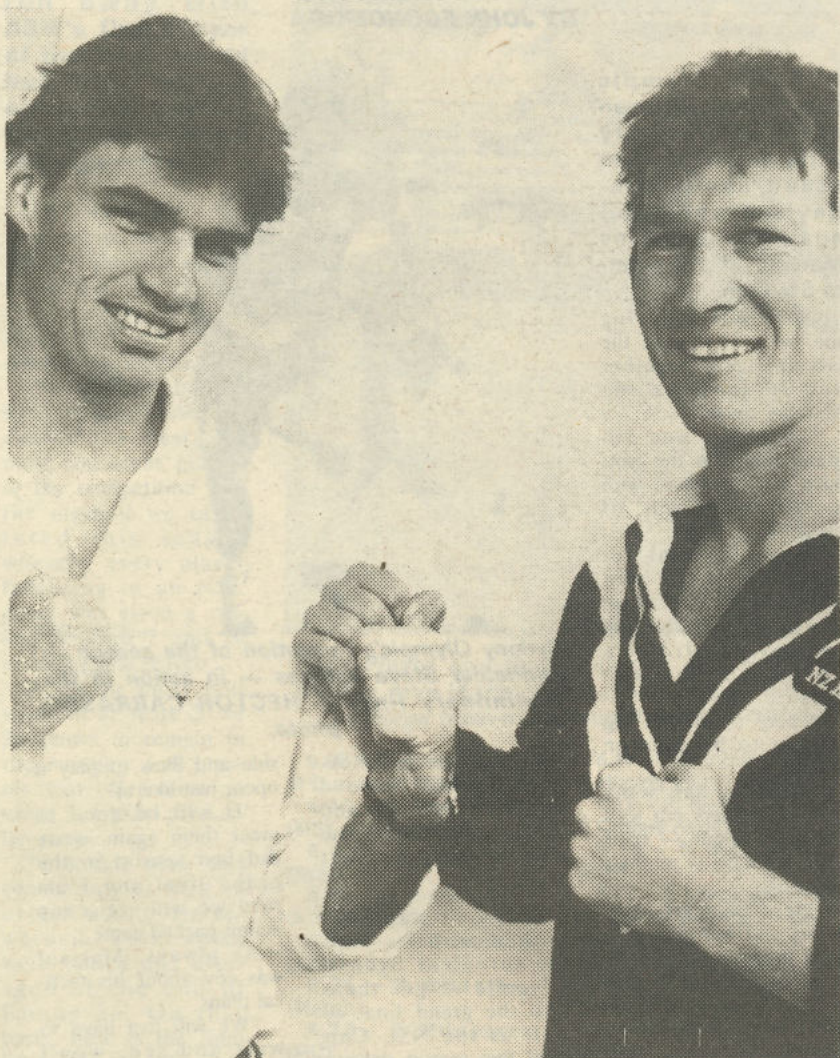
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No love lost between these two flat-mates

BY JOHN ECONOMOS



MARCONI striker Fred de Jong, soon to leave for a fulltime contract with Dutch First Division team Fortuna Sittard, will be out to do no favours to his flatmate in Sunday's grand final.

Fred's flatmate is none other than fellow Kiwi international and Sydney Olympic's rugged midfielder Robbie Ironside.

When Marconi lines up against Sydney Olympic at Parramatta Stadium on Sunday, no love will be lost between these two powerfully built NSL personalities.

Both play it hard, both like it tough.

"I am really looking forward to Sunday and would love nothing better than to give my mate some real stick," de Jong said.

"I have to because it will probably be my last chance to do so before I leave for Holland."

But Ironside ("Wheelchair" to his mates) wants nothing better than a solid scrap with the big fellow he splits the rent with.

"Don't worry about what de Jong tells you. It's going to be on for young and old on Sunday, flatmate or not," Ironside claimed.

"Last year I had my family with me from New Zealand here in Australia to see us play Marconi in the grand final. But this time it will not be a 'family affair'."

"Not that they won't

be coming across. They will. But I will not be spending time with them at all.

"It will be all grand final business and nothing else.

"We at Sydney Olympic will be flat out to see that Fred does not get a 'going away' present with a win in the grand final.

"They won it last year against us, now it's our turn," the giant New Zealand midfielder with the attempted Ruud Gullit hairstyle that went wrong added.

Martin Reusch (right), managing director of Reusch Australia, presents St George's John Filan with his prizes for winning the inaugural Reusch-ASW NSL Goalkeeper of the Year award at Parramatta Stadium last Sunday. Filan also won the ASW-Bayswater Indoor Soccer Centre NSL Player of the Year award — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

From the locker rooms

BY KEITH GILMOUR

THE difference between the teams in last Sunday's preliminary final was a hair's breadth.

But the scene in Sydney Olympic's dressing room — curiously marked 'Visitors' — was jubilant, whereas it seemed that the Melbourne Croatia players had all attended a funeral.

But Olympic coach Mick Hickman, after praising his men for an "unbelievable effort" and Robbie Hooker for a brilliant display in spite of straining a groin, was quick to honour the fallen.

"Talk that Melbourne Croatia lack drive is sheer rubbish," he said. "There is no risk — they have heaps of character."

Hickman was unhappy over the Melbourne side's early dominance.

"They (Croatia) switched so well. We had to hold on, and I had to do some sorting out at half time.

"It's the second week

we had to come back from a goal down. The boys surpassed themselves after coming back after being in sixth place.

"Hooker did great to shackle Awaritefe, anything can happen from here."

Ivan Raznjavich stood quietly contemplating over what might have been, and understandably what the future holds for him as club coach.

"Really we missed Zeljko Adzic and Branko Milosevic.

"Milosevic's hamstring was OK on the running machine but he couldn't last on a run.

"Our final passes just weren't there.

"We went so close on many occasions, especially in the closing minutes of the game.

"We came as far as we could. I was happy with the players and the coaching staff and the club showed it has a future.

"Sydney Olympic is a most determined side. Marconi is tough and there can only be one (grand final) winner, but it will be very close."

NSL WINNERS

Year	Champions	Runners-Up
1977	Eastern Suburbs-Hakoah	Marconi
1978	West Adelaide	Eastern Suburbs-Hakoah
1979	Marconi	Heidelberg United
1980	Sydney City	Heidelberg United
1981	Sydney City	South Melbourne
1982	Sydney City	St George
1983	St George	Sydney City
1984	South Melbourne	Sydney Olympic
1985	Brunswick Juventus	Sydney City
1986	Adelaide City	Sydney Olympic
1987	APIA Leichhardt	Preston
1988	Marconi	Sydney Croatia
1989	Marconi	Sydney Olympic



PERSONALITY PLAYER

GRANT LEE
(Sydney Olympic)



NAME: Grant Lee
CLUB: Sydney Olympic
BIRTHPLACE & DATE: 19/10/61 — Lane Cove, Sydney.

HEIGHT & WEIGHT: 176cm, 72kg

MARRIED: Yes, to Tina.

HOME: Dee Why.

NICKNAME: 'Grunter'

CAR: Commodore

OCCUPATION: Maintenance

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Sydney City, Blacktown City, Newcastle.

FAVOURITE OVERSEAS PLAYERS:

Maradona, John Barnes.

FAVOURITE LOCAL PLAYER: All players with talent.

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: All of them.

FAVOURITE GROUND: Marconi Stadium and Olympic Park.

MOST MEMORABLE GAME: Our quarter-final against West Germany in October 1981 to whom we lost in the World Youth Championship.

BIGGEST THRILL: Playing in that World Youth Championship and playing for the Socceroos in 1981 and 1983.

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Sydney City closing down and losing to West Germany in 1981 in the W.Y.C.

WORST INJURY: Broken leg in junior Soccer.

FAVOURITE POSITION: Midfield or striker.

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Indoor Soccer.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Anything.

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Popular stuff.

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: Sports shows.

BEST FRIEND: My wife Tina, Robbie Wheatley and a few others.

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents and Tina.

AMBITIONS: Would love to play for Australia again and enjoy some success with Sydney Olympic.

MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Steve Refenes and Eric Hristodoulou.

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: The bloke that presents the Grand Final trophy.

WHO WILL WIN THE WORLD CUP AND WHY: Argentina, Brazil or Holland if Gullit can last. I like their style of play.

Compiled by JOHN ECONOMOS

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Sydney Olympic v Melbourne Croatia 2-1

Olympic in second grand final

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

DYNAMIC striker Abbas Saad scored a sensational goal just eight minutes from fulltime to lift Sydney Olympic into their second successive grand final on Sunday against current champions Marconi.

Olympic's 2-1 victory over Melbourne Croatia in the preliminary final at Parramatta Stadium was watched by a crowd of 11,282.

Saad was sent away on a 45-metre raid when attacking right midfielder Grant Lee knocked a good ball infield to the striker near the half way mark.

With sweeper Theo Selimides and fullback Paul Donnelly in front of him, Saad beat both

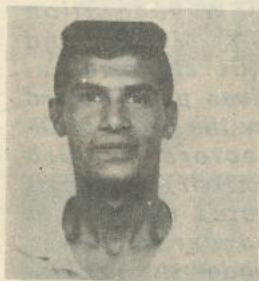
with a body feint before unleashing a low right footed placed shot which cannoned off the left post and bounced into the net.

Melbourne Croatia were handicapped by the absence of their injured midfield star Branko Milosevic.

It was left to former Soccerroo defender Alan Davidson to operate as playmaker, but Davidson did not shine as he did last week against Marconi in the major semi-final.

The Victorians scored first when right midfielder Josip Biskic shot a fierce through-ball into striker John Markovski who was thought to be offside by the Olympic defence.

Markovski first-time touched back to fellow



ABBAS SAAD

striker Francis Awaritefe, who slammed into the net from just eight metres.

Nine minutes before halftime, Sydney Olympic "balanced the books" through tough midfielder Robbie Ironside.

A well taken free kick by Gary Phillips on the left flew across the box to centre-back Andrew Bernal.

Bernal headed on to the back post where Robbie Ironside stretched the net just under the cross bar with a first-time blast.

Four minutes from halftime, Melbourne Croatia broke very quickly out of defence with a long ball upfield to Awaritefe.

As Awaritefe seemed about to score, Olympic captain and left back Robbie Hooker streaked across in cover to block the striker.

Left with no other option, Awaritefe cut the ball back outside the box to a supporting Joe Caleta, but his vicious first-time 30 metre rocketing drive, flashed just wide of Olympic's left post.

During the first half Melbourne Croatia seemed most worried by Saad who was heavily marked by fullback Paul Donnelly.

Saad on three occasions was chopped down and required first aid attention.

Sydney Olympic's left midfielder Steve Refenes streaked away nine minutes after the break, but although well supported inside by Saad, elected to go along into Melbourne's box where sweeper Selemedes blocked his progress.

In the 61st minute, from a free kick on the left for a foul on Refenes by Selemedes, Olympic's tenacious midfielder Gary Phillips fired a well placed out-swinger that cleared the defensive wall but swung very late to flash perilously close to the left post.

Olympic striker Alister Edwards, soon to leave for Singapore to take up a fulltime playing contract there, latched onto a poor back pass by fullback Andy Marth.



Theo Selemedis

Left facing only goalkeeper David Miller, Edwards blasted straight into the custodians' stomach from 10 metres out.

With the match looking like going into extra-time, Saad scored the winner to ignite Parramatta Stadium with deafening screams of "Olympic, Olympic, Olympic".

But Melbourne Croatia was not going to give in so easily and refused to surrender.

With two minutes left to play, they should

have equalised through Awaritefe.

A cross from the left sailed across Olympic's box and dropped two metres in front of the back post.

The mobile Awaritefe raced in from the right but the heroic Hooker streaked across with a sliding tackle to clip the ball centimetres from the striker's cocked boot and around the left post for a corner.

Olympic deserved their victory purely on the basis of sheer guts and character and for the relentless pressure inflicted on the Victorians.

But one cannot but feel sorry for the much more technical Croatian team leaving the stadium empty-handed.

Despite Melbourne Croatia's superior pace in flankmen Awaritefe and Caleta, they failed to capitalise on this advantage as Olympic's flank defenders Davie Barrett and Hooker denied them penetration.

Olympic's best performers were their four defenders, Barrett, Bernal, Tony Dakos and Hooker, whilst Saad, well supported by Refenes cut deep holes in their opponents' defence.

For the Victorians, defender Donnelly did extremely well.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Gosling, Barrett, Bernal, Dakos, Hooker, Lee, Phillips, Ironside, Refenes, Saad, Edwards.

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Miller, Marth, Hannah, Donnelly, Selemedes, Biskic, Davidson (Duzel 86m) Talajic, Awaritefe, Markovski, Caleta.

SCORERS: Ironside 36m, Saad 82m for Sydney Olympic; Awaritefe 29m for Melbourne Croatia.

YELLOW CARDS: Saad 2m for Sydney Olympic; Talajic 4m, Donnelly 43m for Melbourne Croatia.

REFEREE: C. Bambridge. **CROWD:** 11,282.

FRED DE JONG (Marconi)



FULL NAME: Fred De Jong

CLUB: Marconi

BIRTHPLACE & DATE: Hamilton NZ, 5.4.64

MARRIED: No

HOME: Edgecliffe

NICKNAME: Ewen

CAR: Exa

OCCUPATION: Computer programmer

PREVIOUS CLUBS: Mt Wellington NZ

FAVORITE OVERSEAS CLUB: AC MILAN

FAVOURITE PLAYER: Marco Van Basten

FAVOURITE LOCAL PLAYERS: Robbie Ironside

MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: George Hannah

FAVOURITE GROUND: Marconi Stadium

MOST MEMORABLE GAME: New Zealand v

Australia at Mt Smart Stadium last year

BIGGEST THRILL: Scoring my first international goal which was against Australia in 1987

BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Getting subbed in any match

FAVOURITE POSITION: Striker

FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: Many

FAVOURITE FOOD: Tortellini

FAVOURITE MUSIC: Bruce Springsteen

FAVOURITE TV SHOW: The Big Gig

BEST FRIEND: Robbie Ironside

BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father, brothers and Berti Mariani

WORST INJURY: Inflammation of the groin last season

AMBITIONS: To qualify for the next World Cup with New Zealand

MOST PROMISING TEAM MATE: Paul Okon

PERSON YOU'D MOST LIKE TO MEET: Kevin Costner

WHO WILL WIN THE WORLD CUP AND WHY: Holland if Ruud Gullit plays in all the matches

— JOHN ECONOMOS

WATFORD CHASES HICKMAN

SYDNEY Olympic coach Mick Hickman is being sought by English Second Division Club Watford.

Sydney Olympic, desperate to retain their coach for next season, was shocked by the news that drifted across from Britain late last week.

Watford manager Colin Lee, who knows Hickman well, wants the Sydney Olympic coach as his assistant for the new English season.

"The offer came out of the blue, but couldn't have come at a worse time for me during grand final week," Hickman said.

"Obviously, I am delighted by it all but not too happy with the timing of it. I have enough on my plate at the moment to worry about.

"Sunday's grand final for the moment is everything. Nothing else matters. But, understandably, it is an offer that I have to very seriously consider after Sunday."

The likeable Englishman arrived in Australia in 1982 to be assistant to former Burnley player Doug Collins, who succeeded Tommy Docherty as coach at Sydney Olympic.

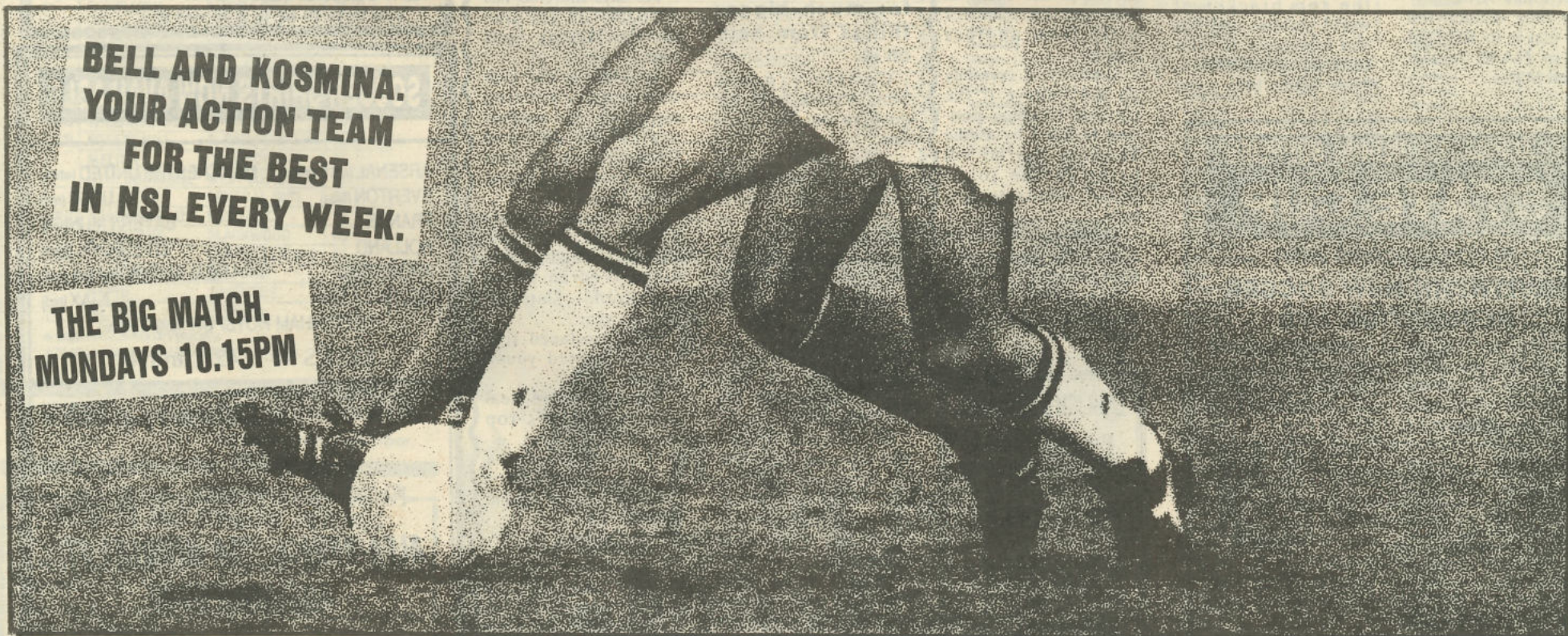
From Olympic, Hickman followed Collins to Marconi before finally ending up at Sydney City with Eddie Thomson in a partnership lasting more than five years.

Hickman arrived at Olympic together with Thomson when the pair took over in 1987.

— JOHN ECONOMOS

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Venglos or Thomson for supremo

BY MIKE JOHNSON

JOE Venglos or Eddie Thomson — that is how the chips have eventually fallen in the shake-out to find Australia's next national soccer coach.

It is interesting to compare the merits of these coaches.

(6) Knows all of our top players and the vagaries of Australian soccer.

(7) Produces highly competitive teams.

(8) Congenial person who mixes well at all levels of soccer.

JOE VENGLOS:

(1) Has played successfully at world class level.

for doubt that he is the best man to take Australia's national team into the 1990s.

Indeed it would be true to say that he would be almost ideal for the job.

One could hardly think of anyone who would be a better choice.

So where does that leave Eddie Thomson?

Well, if we are to appoint a local coach, whether by choice or force of circumstances, Thomson is probably number one choice at this time.

His background, experience and results make him as sound a bet as anyone in the country.

However, every effort must be made to appoint Venglos to the national coaching position.

I remember some years ago going to Czechoslovakia to meet with Dr Josef Venglos, with whom I had been most impressed during his time in Australia.

We went to Prague where he was teaching in the University to listen to his views on soccer, then on to Bratislava to see him coach.

Some weeks ago I regretted missing a coaching session put on by Eddie Thomson at Parklea and certainly I will try to attend other activities in which he is involved.

He is a good coach with lots to offer.

Venglos has been embroiled in top European soccer almost all of his life.

We must pay him his worth.

I do not then believe he would renege on that, as has been suggested in the event of him getting a better offer from another country.

Similarly, I certainly do not believe if the national coaching position is filled by Eddie Thomson that he will bring to the job a casual, dilettante attitude.

Thomson is a pro, as is the other contender, Rale Rasic.

You do not get the results that Rasic and Thomson have



RALE RASIC

achieved in soccer by sitting around.

The current situation of the pursuit of Venglos with Thomson in the back-up position is satisfactory.

If we get Venglos, then we could not have a better team.

If he escapes us, then the appointment of Thomson would mean we could not have a better local man.

Sydney Croatia's 1990/1 ambitions

BY KEITH GILMOUR



David Seal

THE 1989/90 season had its downers, but Sydney Croatia is looking for much bigger things from here on in.

Certainly coach Tony Vrzina is highly positive on the question.

"We made a bad start to last season but ended seventh.

"That was ahead of clubs like Melita Eagles, who received a great deal of favourable publicity," he pointed out.

"In fact the team had one of the best records of any club over the second half of the competition."

Mr Vrzina allows that the club had had big debts, and says that a \$100,000 profit from last season has wiped off a deal of previous outstandings.

Overall he believes that only Marconi are in a better position than Sydney Croatia.

As to claims of instability in the playing strength, Mr Vrzina said: "Where is it?"

"No-one has asked

Violence on outer in NSW

BY PHIL MARTIN



National flags have been banned by the NSW Soccer Federation at all venues under its control this season and the NSL is being urged to follow NSW's lead.

Instruments or objects prohibited by law

In addition to these measures, all ground announcements must be made in English and scoreboard notations must show the full names of the clubs participating.

In arriving at these decisions the Board stated it recognises the problems associated with crowd violence and also the difficulties that may be experienced by club administrators in implementing these measures.

However, the overriding motivation is that the code must rid itself of a minority thinking that has nothing to do with the game of soccer.

Subsequently, the NSL issued directives to cover their preliminary final at Parramatta Stadium.

Flags on poles greater than one metre high were forbidden and lighting of flares and fireworks was out.

Amongst other things security cameras were in use and entry on to the pitch was forbidden.

"Walk Alone" Contest open to ASW readers

FIVE autographed copies of the paperback edition of Craig Johnston's "Walk Alone" can be won by five lucky Australian Soccer Weekly readers.

Simply cut out this article and place it in an envelope along with a slip of paper on which is written, in printing or type, your name, address, postcode and telephone contact numbers.

Post the envelope to Australian Soccer Weekly, PO BOX 406, Broadway NSW 2007.

Entries will be received until the last mail on Wednesday May 30, after which a draw, certified by witnesses, will take place.

The lucky winners will be announced in ASW's issue of June 7 1990.

You have to be in it to win it!

SOCCER SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE

ARSENAL (red & yellow)	MANCHESTER UNITED (white)
EVERTON (blue)	USSR (red)
FRANCE	BAYERN MUNICH
HOLLAND	LIVERPOOL (grey)
ARGENTINA	REAL MADRID (white & blue)
CELTIC	AJAX (red)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (white & yellow)

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The Competition is Limited to 32 teams.

Venue Taree.

Prize money \$3500, plus Trophies and Medallions.

Competition will be run under the Rules and Regulations of the NNSWSF Ltd.

Entries close 30/6/1990

Draw will be advised 16/7/1990

Entry Fee \$150 covering all Playing Costs

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SOCCER POOLS



THIS WEEK'S MATCH LIST WEEK 251 SAT. 19th MAY, 1990

VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	MOOROOLBARK	ALTONA GATE	1
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	NORTHCOVE C.	BOX HILL	2
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	MORWELL	HEIDELBERG U.	3
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	WERRIBEE	SANDRINGHAM	4
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	ESSENDON	NTH. GEELONG	5
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	KNOX CITY	OAKLEIGH	6
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	WESTGATE	MORDIALLOC	7
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	CHELSEA	RICHMOND	8
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 1	KEILOR	RINGWOOD U.	9
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	DANDENONG	NUNAWADING	10
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	DONCASTER	WAVERTLEY	11
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	BRIGHTON	BELL PARK	12
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	SUNBURY UTD.	COBURG	13
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	KWINANA	ATHENA	14
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	KELMSCOTT	KINGSWAY	15
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	SORRENTO	SPEARWOOD	16
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	BALGA	BASSENDEN	17
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	MELVILLE	INGLEWOOD	18
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	COCKBURN	FREMANTLE	19
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	OSBORNE PK.	MORLEY	20
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	ASHFIELD	ARMADALE PK.	21
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	SWAN ATH.	VASTO UTD.	22
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	GERALTON	WEST YUGAL	23
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	SUBIACO	SWAN IC.	24
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	DIANELLA	CANNING	25
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	QUEENS PK.	UNIVERSITY	26
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	NORTH LAKE	PERTH CITY	27
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	BOORAGOON	WHITFORD C.	28
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	ADELAIDE C.	CROATIA	29
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	CUMBERLAND	HELLAS	30
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	PT. ADELAIDE	MODBURY	31
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	SALISBURY	WOODVILLE	32
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	LION GRANGE	AZZURRI	33
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	W.T. BIRKALLA	POLONIA	34
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	UNIVERSITY	OXLEY UTD.	35
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	SLACKS CREEK	DARRA UTD.	36
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	LATROBE V.	SOUTHS UTD.	37
VIC. LEAGUE DIVISION 2	CAPALABA	PINE HILL	38

* QUEENSLAND DIVISION 4
† TASMANIA SOUTH DIVISION 1

Jackpot this week est \$600,000

MATCH RESULTS WEEK 250

VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 1	ALTONA GATE	NORTHCOVE C.	1	0-2
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 1	CAULFIELD CITY	MORWELL	2	2-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 1	OAKLEIGH	ESSENDON	3	2-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 1	DOVETON	MARYIBYRNONG	4	2-0
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 1	P. MELBOURNE	WERRIBEE	5	0-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 1	SANDRINGHAM	WESTGATE	6	1-4
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	CLIFTON HILL	SUNBURY UTD.	7	1-0
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	COBURG	BRIGHTON	8	1-2
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	BELL PARK	DONCASTER	9	1-1*
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	WAVERTLEY	DANDENONG	10	2-4
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	NUNAWADING	KEILOR	11	2-5
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	RINGWOOD UTD.	CHELSEA	12	1-2
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	RICHMOND	GEELONG	13	0-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	NTH. PERTH	ATHENA	14	1-2
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	KWINANA	KELMSCOTT	15	2-0
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	SORRENTO	KINGSWAY	16	0-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	INGLEWOOD	BALGA	17	1-1*
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	BASSENDEN	EAST PERTH	18	1-1*
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	WANNEROO	COCKBURN	19	3-0
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	SWAN CRAC	FREMANTLE B.	20	1-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	ROCKINGHAM	FORRESTFIELD	21	2-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	OSBORNE PK.	FERDALE UTD.	22	0-3
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	MORLEY	GOSNELLS	23	0-3
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	MELVILLE	STIRLING TP.	24	1-0
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	HELLAS	WT. BIRKALLA	25	4-2
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	AZZURRI	ADELAIDE C.	26	2-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	CROATIA	CUMBERLAND	27	2-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	MODBURY	SALISBURY	28	0-3
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	POLONIA	WOODVILLE	29	0-0*
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	PT. ADELAIDE	LION GRANGE	30	0-2
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	SLACKS CREEK	LATROBE V.	31	0-1
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	DARRA UTD.	KINGSRIDGE	32	4-3
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	OXLEY UTD.	ANERLEY	33	1-2*
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	OLYMPIC	JUVENTUS	34	14-0
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	DEVONPORT	EAGLES	35	1-2*
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	GEORGETOWN	ST. LEONARDS	36	3-2
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	BURNIE	WEST SUBURBS	37	0-3
VIC. LEAGUE DIV. 2	LAUNCESTON	ULVERSTONE	38	8-1



THE POOLS RESULTS HISTORY AT 12/5/90 — WEEK 250

NO. OF TIMES EACH NUMBER OCCURRED										NO. OF WEEKS SINCE EACH NUMBER OCCURRED									
1	26	31	38	15	30	45	35	45		1	2	12	4	8	7	8	1		
2	46	56	49	51	46	49	51	45		0	3	7	9	1	2	1	1		
3	49	46	35	52	47	51	52	48		0	0	10	0	4	2	5	5		
4	47	55	53	62	55	72	53	51		4	7	3	5	0	1	1	15		
5	50	65	57	65	52	52				0	2	0	8	7	3				

Results History is from Week 38, the start of Six from 38 Pools

RESULTS OF WEEK 250 SAT 12 MAY, 1990

Total Prize Pool is \$600,000.00
Winning Match Numbers (in numerical order): 9, 17, 18, 20, 29, 35.
Supplementary Number: 33

Division 1
No winner Jackpot next week
(est \$600,000).

Division 2
No winners, therefore the prize pool is distributed amongst the Div 3 winners.

Division 3
The Prize Pool is \$17,411.60
56 winners of \$319.85ea

Division 4
The Prize Pool is \$33,566.85
2,307 winners of \$14.55ea

Division 5
The Prize Pool is \$26,838.00
2,982 winners of \$9.00ea

VICTORIA

VIC. DIV. 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doveton	7	6	0	1	13	3	12
Oakleigh	7	5	1	1	17	8	11
Springvale	7	4	2	1	14	11	10
Port Melb.	7	4	2	1	5	2	10
Westgate	7	4	1	2	17	5	9
Knox City	7	4	1	2	14	14	9
Mordialloc	7	3	2	2	7	5	8
Western Sub	7	1	4	2	6	8	6
Werribee	7	2	2	3	6	9	6
Essendon	7	1	3	3	8	11	5
Marib. Pol	7	1	3	3	11	13	5
Broadmeadows	7	2	0	5	5	9	4
Sandringham	7	1	0	6	6	19	2
Nth Geelong	7	0	1	6	8	18	1

VIC. DIV. 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	7	6	0	1	14	9	12
Bell Park	7	4	3	0	12	6	11
Doncaster	7	4	1	2	16	12	9
Geelong	7	4	1	2	12	9	9
Waverley	7	3	2	2	12	6	8
Clifton Hill	7	3	2	2	7	5	8
Dandenong	7	3	1	3	13	12	7
Chelsea	7	3	1	3	13	13	7
Sunbury	7	3	0	4	14	14	6
Keilor	6	2	1	3	9	9	5
Nunawading	7	1	3	3	9	14	5
Richmond	7	1	1	5	5	11	3
Coburg	6	1	1	4	5	11	3
Ringwood	7	0	3	4	6	16	3

VIC. DIV. 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Altona City	6	5	1	0	18	9	11

WEST AUST.

SUPER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Floreat	4	4	0	12	5	12	5
Stirling	4	3	0	1	13	8	9
North Perth	4	3	0	1	8	3	9
Kwinana	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Perth Italia	4	3	0	1	10	7	9
Spearwood	4	1	0	3	9	10	3
Kelmscott	4	1	0	3	7	10	3
Sorrento	4	1	0	3	2	6	3
Kingsway	4	1	0	3	2	8	3
Bayswater	4	0	0	4	3	14	0

PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rockingham	8	7	0	1	19	5	21
Inglewood	8	6	2	0	13	4	20
Ferndale	8	6	0	2	20	6	18
Fremantle	8	5	3	0	20	8	18
Wanneroo	8	5	0	3	14	15	15
East Perth	8	4	1	3	15	11	13
Melville	8	3	3	2	16	10	12
Swan	8	3	3	2	13	8	12
Bassendean	8	3	2	3	11	15	11
Forrestfield	8	3	1	4	10	10	10
Gosnells City	8	2	1	5	13	12	7
Stirling Toscana	8	2	1	5	8	12	7
Balga	8	1	3	4	8	16	6
Morley Windmills	8	1	2	5	7	18	5
Osborne Park	8	1	1	6	9	23	4
Cockburn	8	0	1	7	3	27	1

FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Whitford City	8	7	1	0	27	7	22
Armadale Park	8	6	1	1	28	5	19
Canning	8	6	1	1	27	9	19
Perth City	8	6	0	2	23	8	18
Ashfield	8	5	2	1	22	6	17
Swan IC	8	4	3	1	24	10	15
Diannella	7	4	2	1	20	6	14
University	8	4	0	4	15	21	12
Booragoon	8	2	2	4	12	18	8
Queens Park	8	2	1	5	9	14	7
Geraldton	8	2	1	5	11	17	7
Subiaco	7	2	1	4	9	17	7
North Lake	8	2	1	5	18	7	7
Swan Athletic	8	2	0	6	12	39	6
Stirling	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Booragoon	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Geraldton	1	0	1	0	1	1	1

SOUTH AUST.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hellas	11	8	1	2	22	12	17
Polonia	11	5	6	0	20	8	16
E.D. Azzurri	11	6	2	3	16	9	14
Croatia	11	5	4	2	20	16	14
Salisbury	11	5	4	2	20	18	12
U.S.C. Lion	11	4	4	3	17	15	12
Adelaide City	11	2	7	2	9	9	11
Modbury	11	4	3	4	14	20	11
W.T. Birkalla	11	4	2	5	18	18	10
Beogard	11	3	4	4	12	13	10
Cumberland Utd	11	1	9	6	21	3	2
Port Adelaide	11	1	0	10	7	25	2

DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Para Hills	6	4	1	1	9	7	9
Enfield	6	3	2	1	10	5	8
Olympians	6	2	3	1	7	2	7
Omonia	6	3	1	2	7	3	7
Campbelltown	6	3	1	2	6	4	7
Blackwood	6	2	2	2	4	5	6
Elizabeth	6	2	2	2	4	7	6
Noarlunga	6	2	1	3	4	6	5
C.D. Apac	6	1	2	4	1	5	3
Seaford	6	0	2	4	2	10	2

QUEENSLAND

DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Annerley	8	5	2	1	21	9
Darra Utd	8	4	3	1	19	13
Redcliffe	7	4	3	0	11	5
Valley	7	5	0	2	13	9
Souths Utd	8	4	2	2	18	16
Stacks Ck	8	3	3	2	16	7
Beenleigh	7	4	0	3	13	14
Kingsridge	7	3	1	3	15	12
Lutwyche	8	2	2	4	9	14
Uni of Qld	8	1	1	6	8	21
Brothers	6	1	0	5	4	11
Oxley	8	0	1	7	5	18

Surprises mark NSW kick-off

BY PAUL GOODWIN



THE much heralded NSW State League First Division competition got under way with six of the teams sitting out the first round of matches, two of

longong Macedonia played a 2-2 draw at Seymour Shaw Park, which was always a likely result and Marconi's trip to Newcastle, where the sides drew 0-0, was always expected to be close.

**BHP AUSTRAL 0
MARCONI-FAIRFIELD 0**

Close to a thousand people turned up at Austral Park to see the kick-off of the season. The Conference 'A' match between Marconi

Dougie Elphick was unable to capitalise on a number of opportunities in front of goal and shared his misfortune with both Simon Brandt and Mike Boogaard and the Austral side had to settle for a goalless draw.

For Marconi Australian under 19 goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and defender Greg Colucci had top games, while Howard Tredinnick was at his very best and was ably supported by both Jones and Naumov for Newcastle.

game at Seymour Shaw Park, where Graham Arnold put in his first appearance for the Sharks.

Greg Brown appeared in Macedonia's colours on loan from Melita, but was stifled by a well disciplined Sutherland defence.

Grant Bard gave the home side the lead within 80 seconds when he got the ball past Mazeovski, following a Jim Webber free kick, nodded back by Graham Arnold.

Graeme Fletcher brought the scores level, picking the ball up after keeper Paul Dart had knocked out a cross in the 28th minute.

Arnold netted from a customary header at the near post following a Scott Leney corner in the 25th, but in a ding-dong first half the Wollongong side again had Fletcher to thank as he followed up his own shot, which rebounded off the post, in the 29th.

Although there was no score in the second half, both sides continued to play attractive soccer and if anything Wollongong Macedonia could have been the unluckier, with Paul Dart making one particularly spectacular save in the latter stages.

When John Kosmina is available again the Sutherland side will present a challenge for most sides, but Wollongong cannot afford to drop too many points if they are to achieve their promotion goal.

SUTHERLAND: Dart, Sellar, Webber, Terry, Biscaya, O'Shea, Hutcheon, Christadoulou (Tasker), Arnold, Leney, Bard (Sharp).

WOLLONGONG MACEDONIA: Mazeovski, Cavanah, Martin Bourke, Galway, Cabassi, Kay, Sandy, Matthew Bourke, G. Brown, Fletcher, Thornthwaite.

**WARRINGAH-F/WATER 0
SYDNEY MACEDONIA 2**

Sydney Macedonia continued where they left off before their hurried and unsuccessful trip to Canberra for the Challenge Cup final, disposing of the Warringah side 2-0 at Cromer Park.

Fielding basically the same side which won promotion from Second Division Macedonia got off to a flying start when Theo Kotsias opened their account in the 38th minute.

Scott Gilbert completed the scoring in the second half, although the Freshwater boys claimed offside should have been given, but the game as a whole was not much above the ordinary.

Newcomer Anthony Versi, a full signing from Melita, hit the post from fully 35 metres for the home side, who will be augmented by a loaned NSL player once the grand final is over.

WARRINGAH-FRESHWATER: Mikuletic, Morson, Glasscock (de Ceglie), Oscilowski, Sterrey, Etherington, Masi (McBreen), Giannone, Knight, Versi, Panetta.

SYDNEY MACEDONIA: Golovadovski, Souris, Cakovski (Card), Pilovski, Reveley, Baillie, Kotsias, Arcosa, Gilbert, Spirovski, Kadric (Genovese).

**WOLLONGONG CITY 2
AVALA 4**

Sensation at Brandon Park, with the very youthful Wolves expected to be more than a match for the recently disappointing Avala.

Miladin Kuc, recruited from Yugoslav Division Two club Zamun, stamped his class on this game and the 27-year-old striker had a hand in all of his team's four-goal tally.

In addition, Avala included loan player Washington Gonzalez and welcomed back John McKie, after a spell trialling elsewhere.

It was McKie who put Kuc through for the first of his two goals in the 11th minute. A really fine effort by the young Wolves' keeper Bohoutos, to deny the player, came to nothing as Kuc displayed superb control to finish off with great style.

Jason Aldridge equalised for the Wollongong side in the 30th when he pounced on the ball which Rodic had parried from a Sasha Dimoski shot, after the promising youngster had left two defenders in his wake.

Kuc was not to be outdone and went past three challenges before pushing the ball to Benitez in the 47th and it was 2-1.

Kuc had a strong shot handled by Jeff Alport in the 76th and converted his own penalty for the third, before Sasha Dimoski pulled one back in the 79th.

Dimoski had been pulled down after a good run forward and it was a Stephen Krishna free kick that Dimoski managed to head home.

Kuc beat two in the 88th minute, but his shot was blocked and Paul Welch took the loose ball past McEvoy to face Bouhoutsos and net the last goal of the game.

WOLLONGONG CITY: Bouhoutsos, McEvoy, Scott, Alport, Baggot, Piententini, Krushna, Higgs, Danzo, Aldridge, Dimoski.

AVALA: Rodic, Meades, Vukmarvic, Gonzales, Carrios, Fitzharris, McKie, Nas-toski, Benitez, Kuc, Welch.

RESULTS

CONFERENCE A: BHP Austral 0 Marconi-Fairfield 0, Wollongong City 2 (Aldridge, Dimoski) Avala 4 (Kuc 2, Benitez, Welch) Warringah-Freshwater 0 Sydney Macedonia 2 (Kotsias, Gilbert), Canberra Croatia — bye.

CONFERENCE B: Sutherland Shire 2 (Bard, Arnold) Wollongong Macedonia 2 (Fletcher 2), Inter-Monaro 1 (Maricic) North Shore United 2 (Norman, Pierce), Blacktown City 0 Polonia 1 (Beamer), Sydney Croatia bye.

SEND your stories and photographs to AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY. Team and action photos will be welcomed.

Address all material to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.



Warringah Freshwater's Sam Panetta in action — Picture Joe Murphy, courtesy MANLY DAILY.

North Shore canes uncommitted Inter

BY GRAHAM COOKE

INTER Monaro gave its long suffering supporters little to hope for in 1990 with a miserable opening to the NSW Soccer League premiership season at the Marco Polo Ground on Sunday.

The Queanbeyan club went down 2-1 to North Shore in a game it should have had firmly in its keeping by the mid-way point of the second half.

Instead the points were snatched from it by two late goals which gave newly-promoted Shore the win it could scarcely have dreamed of.

Monaro, with Njegosh Popovich causing trouble up front, Luche Djondjeski controlling affairs in mid-field and Steve Bryant organising the defence, looked the more creative side in a goalless first half.

Bryant almost gave Shore a present when he turned the ball back into the path of Glenn Jeffery, but the visiting striker was far too slow to take advantage.

Then a free kick from Lee Sutherland found a trio of Shore forwards unmarked. Luckily for

Monaro, Hoszowski beat all three to the ball.

The home side's problems eased in the 56th minute. Popovich chased a ball back towards Craig Thornton, hustled the goalkeeper out of possession, then slipped the perfect pass across the face of goal for fellow striker Emil Maricic to tap home.

When the next goal did come it was at the other end, the experienced Peter Norman getting on to the end of a free kick and heading downwards and past Hoszowski at the foot of the upright.

Then with three minutes left no-one spotted Wayne Pierce moving up from midfield for a corner. The ball fell to him and he blasted it unchallenged into the net.

Forced into facing the prospect of defeat, the home side managed to inject some urgency into its play, but it was too late.

INTER MONARO: Hoszowski, Munterosso, Alchin, Ambrosino, Bryant, Danielle, Djondjeski, Fernandez, Popovich, Giampaolo, Maricic.

NORTH SHORE: Thornton, Nile, Gough (Gillan 69), Bass, Pierce, Ferguson, Sutherland, Norman, Jeffery, Honter, Bennett.

REFEREE: J. Jenkins.

CROWD: 177.



An incident from the recent NSW Challenge Cup final between Canberra Croatia and Sydney Macedonia — GRAHAM TIDY photo.

those receiving byes and the others engaged in midweek games.

There were a few surprises, with the biggest being Avala's 4-2 upset at Brandon Park against Wollongong Wolves.

Polonia shocked Blacktown City 1-0 at The Gabbie, while North Shore United had a fruitful visit to Queanbeyan, defeating Inter-Monaro 2-1.

Sutherland and Wol-

and BHP Austral was switched from Marconi Stadium to Newcastle in a late move.

In the feature attraction a decidedly youthful Marconi side put on a good show against an almost full strength Newcastle outfit.

Missing only the injured Ralph Maier, but still without any loaned players until the end of the NSL grand final series, BHP Austral enjoyed a distinct territorial advantage without converting that superiority into goals.

Once they have their full complement of under 23 and over aged players available, Marconi will be a real force and entertain wherever they go.

BHP AUSTRAL: Carter, Bowen, Jones, Tredinnick, Boogaard, Evan, Naumov, Gresham (Porter), Bailey, Elphick (Krstevski), Brandt.

MARCONI-FAIRFIELD: Schwarzer, Colucci, Cortes, Budwee, Lovas, Charwood, Surjan, Vanegas, Licata, D'Allest (Buddini), Calic.

**SUTHERLAND SHIRE 2
WOLLONGONG MACE 2**

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Blackburn goal settles issue

BY PAUL GOODWIN

CAMPBELLTOWN Vikings began a sequence of four Second Division games in 14 days when they defeated Auburn Yugal 2-0 at Mona Park on Saturday.

A little sluggish in the first half, although going a goal up, the visitors made sure with a goal from assistant-coach Steve Blackburn in the second half.

Two chances fell for Yugal in the opening stages, Zoran Beluzic and Paul Pettenon both shooting wide.

The Vikings drew blood in the 25th minute when they scored from a well-worked free kick.

Just outside the box, Blackburn in a deceptively casual motion, laid the ball on for Sep Disch who buried the ball in the roof of the net.

A 65th minute clearance from Dave Bonney, after a Yugal raid, was chased by Blackburn who rounded two defenders before giving Rosario Pinto the slip, for number two.

The visitors could have gone three up when Pinto only parried a Ray Carney effort and Carney's follow-up hit the post.

Max Defellicibus smacked the rebound back only for the ball to be hastily cleared off the line.

The win put the Vikings into fourth spot momentarily and they have a good chance to consolidate.

They meet Mount Druitt tonight (Wed), travel to Orange on Saturday, and meet Petersham next Wednesday.

Manly switched their Cromer Park fixture to Saturday, when it was discovered that Warringah-Freshwater were on duty the next day and picked up their first point in six matches against Waverley.

A much more polished home side was able to snatch a point with a fine Mark Butler header in the 78th minute to wipe out the 20th minute lead established by Jimmy Berry.

Petersham and Fairfield shared the spoils at Erskineville Oval, Danny Zannola putting his side one up in the 23rd and Tony O'Shana equalising in the 40th.

Cec Chatfield hit the post for Petersham late in the game, but it was, in the end, a fair result for both sides.

Orange tumbled again at Waratah Park, going two down by half time to Gladesville



Manly Warringah's Tommy Gavin struts his stuff against Granville Chile — photo courtesy MANLY DAILY.

goals from brothers Graem and Ashley Williamson.

In the second half, when the home side pulled one back, it was Glen 'Spike' Hooper, a regular between the posts up until now, who did the damage with a good header.

Chris Butt made sure for the 'Mitre 10 Bears' to bring up a 3-1 scoreline.

Granville-Chile appeared unlucky not to claim both points at Popondetta Park.

In the end they settled for a 1-1 draw with Mount Druitt, who had two sent off late in the game, but had established a lead on the hour thanks to Craig Lowe, running past a flatfooted defence.

Andy Ferris set things up for a storming finish with his now regular contribution, but 'The Town' hung on for the point.

The big Portuguese derby attracted an estimated 2,000 spectators to E.S. Marks Field and Dulwich Hill ran out convincing 3-0 winners.

Two goals from set plays, a result of a significant number of free kicks awarded on the edge of the area, provided a comfortable cushion for Madeira, who grabbed a third when Carlos Donoso took advantage of some indecision in the Rosebery defence.

The earlier goals both came from Zeljko Beres, the first a wickedly dipping shot from wide on the right and the second a header from Zaja Jabrael's cross.

Southern Districts defeated Central Coast 3-1 at Ernie Smith Reserve, Gerkin Tasdemir scoring after three minutes and making it

two with a shot that deflected off a defender.

Biröl Sertbas scored the team's third with a sensational drive from well outside the box in the 47th and Brett Margin managed a consolation goal in the 88th for the visitors.

Districts meet Dulwich Hill after tackling Waverley this Saturday and a win at home is definitely on the cards, on both occasions.

RESULTS

Rosebery Portugal 0 Dul-

wich Hill Madeira 3 (Beres 2, Donoso), Auburn-Yugal 0 Campbelltown Vikings 2 (Disch, Blackburn), Southern Districts 3 (Tasdemir 2, Sertbas) Central Coast 1 (Margin), Petersham-Lusitanos 1 (Zannola) Fairfield City 1 (O'Shana), Orange Waratah 1 (Glen Hooper) Gladesville-Hornsby 3 (G. Williamson, A. Williamson, Butt), Mount Druitt Town 1 (C. Lowe) Granville-Chile 1 (Ferris), Manly Warringah 1 (Butler) Waverley 1 (Berry).

LEADING SCORERS: 10 Paul Harriott, 8 Dennis Duarte, 7 Barry Walker, 6 Mark Butler, Graeme Williamson, 5 Remyle Galloway, Paul Pettenon, Gary Hastie, Leo Ulloa, Sep Disch, Andy Ferris, 4 Nello Borges, Oskar Selik, Max Defellicibus, Ray Carney, Gerkin Tasdemir, Chris Butt.

NSW U16

DEREK Poimer, the outstanding state midfielder from Apia Leichhardt, has broken a collarbone.

Coach David Lee has allowed him three weeks grace to come good.

NSW should have an advantage with the ability of young Sydney Croatia striker Tony Milicec to put away his chances.

The club could have another David Seal on

its books.

Meanwhile, Lee has been helping the private education sector.

Short courses have been conducted for Sydney Grammar School and the Catholic Colleges.

A second "Talented Child in Sport" programme will run at Narrabeen from June 19/25.

NSW Sports minister Bob Rowland Smith will attend one of the sessions.

ASHOUR STAR

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(Mr Peter Varde) or ring after hours

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Marconi	1	0	1	0	0	1	Prospect United.....4 2 0 2 6 5 4		
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A tale of two Victoria meetings

BY GREG BLAKE

THE contrast within the 24-hour timespan was quite dramatic.

On the Wednesday night it was the ambitious and thoroughly professional Amateur and Industrial League's night for announcing a new \$10,000 sponsorship.



Aboard a Yarra River punt, club representatives, media and special guests watched on as league heads once again were able to talk at length about the positive steps being taken by one of the state's least profiled soccer bodies.

Less than 24 hours later, we were aboard the good ship VSF at the Diplomat Motor Inn in St Kilda looking on as Victoria's alleged most senior body torpedoed itself straight through the hull again.

So whilst the amateurs took another step forward, the Victorian Soccer Federation took a couple of giant strides backwards.

And once again the game was the big loser as Victorian senior club representatives managed to tear a few more strands from the fabric of the game.

TOKEN

My summation is that Victorian soccer, at senior level, is tearing itself apart at the seams.

The gentlemen, and token women, on hand for this VSF special general meeting, were there to vote on two proposed amendments to the constitution.

Representatives of all of Victoria's senior clubs (i.e. NSL, State League and Victorian League) were to consider the issues of a change in the voting system, to make allowances for a current system weighted in favour of Victorian League clubs, and to (not again) vote on the formation of the now comical 'Super League'.

The styles of the potential voters contrasted dramatically.

Some spent what seemed like the entire evening asking fatuous questions to the VSF board members and then buttering up to ask the same questions again.

Probably in a world of their own on a night when, to my mind anyway, self-interest ruled

the waves anyway.

Others, like one club rep next to me, yawned a few times, made his boredom obvious, heckled once or twice and then left before the second proposition was voted on.

And these guys are supposed to be casting votes "for the good of the game?"

You have got to be kidding.

I would not have let any more than about half of them run the chook raffle at my cricket club.

VSF chairman Vito Cilauro, a legal man, prior to the first proposal going up for grabs made what I felt was a sensible and compelling argument in favour of the clubs considering change.

"If we want to be taken seriously we must prove that we have the courage to change the rules," he told a hardly captive audience.



VITO CILAURO

It sounded fair enough to me with the game in Victoria still very much hamstrung by a constitution drawn up 30 years ago by men with apparently little foresight.

Without even attempting to repeat George Wallace's long-winded explanation of the first proposed amendment, put simply it was to ensure parity between the voting rights of NSL and State League clubs and those of Victorian League clubs.

As it stood, the Victorian League outfits boasted 56 votes to the more senior clubs' total of 52.

If and when the State League becomes two divisions (and knowing the determination of many at board level for this to happen you can put next week's rent on it eventuating) the votes would then be weighted in favour of the more senior clubs.

MOTION

Had the eligible members seen fit to pass the motion, it would have meant that regardless of the make-up of the various leagues, in future there would not, under the complicated new regulations, be any such disparity between the two parties.

Question time prior to the vote became a platform for mainly side issues.

One gentleman kept insisting that it should be one club, one vote. Many nodded approval.

Now why, say, a Fourth Division outfit which serves to ensure a game for 11 good mates each weekend but has no facilities or future should have the same say in running affairs as a South Melbourne Hellas is totally beyond me.

Surely, the idea is that clubs which do have aspirations to greatness, which do provide facilities, have financial backing and support (and look after that support) should be the leaders of this organisation going into the 21st century?

If everyone can get everything they want by remaining in Fourth Division, what incentive is there anyway?

Perhaps the ideal situation would be five equal divisions of the State League — all with one vote each — and, at least if the game goes nowhere, everyone at the VSF AGM will be satisfied.

But I digress.

Victorian League Management Committee chairman Joe Docherty had not endeared himself to the VSF board, of which he is also a member, by throwing a spanner in the form of a letter prompting clubs to vote 'no' to both proposals.

The letter was sent to clubs only days before the meeting and distributed prior to the meeting itself.

SENSIBLE

Docherty, who has always appealed to me as being a sensible chap with the game at heart, was stopped in his tracks when he tried to justify his actions in front of the anxious throng.

We shall discuss Docherty's role in proceedings and reprint a section of his letter a little later.

VSF chairman John Dimtis managed the final word, encouraging the members that to vote 'yes' was the 'right way to go'.

The motion was defeated despite a 62 to 38 vote in favour as in both votes a 75 percent margin was required.

The second issue was that of the proposed 'Super League'.

I've made my opinions public on the issue many times and suffice to say I had my fingers crossed that this time all would be well.

Question time wasn't quite so drawn out this time.

It seemed that earlier suspicions that the VSF board was trying to put one over the clubs had given way to downright mistrust.

And anyway, many of the members were, it seemed, just keen to get on with it and get home for dinner.

Some, in fact, did.

Typical of the selfish nature of some clubs it was then proposed that the second amendment be, would you believe, amended.

Confused?

It's pretty simple really.

The original proposal was for the top 14 clubs in this season's State League to become the 1991 'Super League' with the necessary adjustments made down through the leagues.

The amendment to the amendment, proposed (surprise, surprise) by a member whose club just happened to be relegated from the State League last season, was that there be two divisions of 12 clubs to be formed next year, each of equal importance, with the top six in each at the end of 1991 to become the 'Super League' in 1992.

VSF



PROPOSAL

This, by the way, was the same proposal which was voted out around nine months ago by the same clubs.

Nine months and some \$25,000 down the gurgler later (remember the VSF's Supreme Court case) we were back to consider the same thing.

After a half-hour time-out to give the VSF's solicitor a chance to draft the amended amendment, some sanity was returned to proceedings when the second amendment was thrown out 66 to 28.

The original amendment went up next.

It crashed too. A 67 for and 23 against vote meant that the 75 percent majority was not reached.

It was later revealed that one NSL club voted informally and that four State League clubs had voted against the proposal.

It takes little imagination to guess which of the State League clubs swung the vote.

In effect, it means that the VSF is locked into a ridiculously large 18-team State League for 1991 or a 19, 20 or perhaps 21-team competition if Victoria's NSL clubs are relegated.

For 'Super League' supporters all is not lost.

Four clubs had, by the end of the evening, already petitioned the VSF to hold another such special general meeting to again vote on the proposed streamlined competition.

GEORGE WALLACE — his lengthy explanation failed to sway several Victorian League clubs who voted again in their self-interest

Which, I guess, is fair enough, except for the fact that it costs the VSF around \$2,500 to get each special general meeting up and running.

And it seems the clubs only turn up to vote against their own interests and, subsequently, against the best interests of the game.

At least that's the way it seems, on what I witnessed on the night.

The logic of voting parity and the end to a cumbersome State League was, to me, clear-cut.

In the end confusion — and a marked lack of interest by some members — cost the game dearly.

There is no doubt that the Joe Docherty letter wielded some influence on the outcome of the evening.

COURAGE

Docherty, who defended his position by maintaining that he represented the 56 Victorian League clubs and their board and his obligations were with them, showed the courage of his convictions by staying around long after the meeting had ended to field questions by an apparently hostile media.

Docherty denied that, as a VSF board member, he had agreed two days previously to support the proposed amendments.

"The only thing we agreed on in principle was equal voting," he said.

"But as the VLMC chairman I had every right to release that letter.

"We put proposals to the board which are almost always automatically defeated.

"What we require is at least three of our members on the VSF Board of Management."

Docherty responded angrily to criticism that the Victorian League vote which basically crushed both proposals at his suggestion was a case of the 'tail wagging the dog.'

He also refuted the suggestion that his encouragement of the 'no' vote to both proposals was simply a protest vote to use as a lever to gain the extra VLMC representation on the VSF board.

But, frankly, I believe that the encouragement of the 'no' vote was meant as nothing else but a protest vote to the board.

As I see it, the Victorian League clubs voted against their own interests after reading the highly emotive document.

Some of the sentiments in the letter were spot-on, however.

The final few paragraphs expressed the desire to 'find long-term solutions to the problems that affect the game.'

"We have the ideas ready, all we need is the time and the opportunity to present them to a tripartisan committee," read the letter.

SHAME

What a shame the letter didn't go on to say just what these ideas were.

I rarely attend these VSF bunfights but I was assured that it would be a real eye-opener.

I did and it was.

The repercussions have followed, with suggestions that Vito Cilauro should resign as VSF chairman.

His alleged lack of strong leadership has been a concern expressed by many in recent

days.

ASF commissioners have also stepped into the act, unofficially, of course, and the whisper is that they may sanction a breakaway NSL 'Second Division' to come out of Victoria.

The ASF commissioners have privately expressed dismay at the (mis)handling of Victorian affairs.

BREAKAWAY

A breakaway league would eradicate any further embarrassment.

The remarkable thing is that half a dozen people with foresight saw the need for a national soccer competition around 15 years ago and our code led the way with the NSL kicking off in 1977.

Aussie rules, rugby league, basketball and baseball have all since followed suit in an attempt to streamline competitions.

The NSW State League saw the value in cleaning up its own backyard not long ago and set about getting the job done with a minimum of fuss.

Victorian clubs, it seems, still cannot see beyond the ends of their own noses and refuse the follow by (successful) example.

I was stunned at the attitudes expressed at the meeting in question and I guess I just wanted you, the general public, to be as well.

These are, after all, the people charged with controlling the destiny of your game.

If you are satisfied, you darn well shouldn't be.

And if you think this story is long-winded, you should have sat through the VSF special general meeting.

Now we are set for another debacle in about four weeks' time!

Australian soccer in 1990 — fact or fiction?

1990 was a big year for soccer in Australia.

In the bi-annual test series clashes between Australia and England in July, a capacity crowd of 40,000-plus at the Parramatta Stadium saw the Australian Socceroos narrowly defeat England in an exciting shoot-out finish to a drawn 5-5 after playing a fourth quarter of 35 minutes extra-time.

The Nine Network were ecstatic with the telecast of the match which scored a rating of 40 in Australia and which was also telecast live by Satel-Pac to England to an estimated 30 million viewers.

The previous month Australia defeated Japan 3-0 in Newcastle to secure a place at the 1990 World Cup being played for the first time in the United States.

Australia started joint favourites with the USA to take out this prestigious event which will attract a television viewing audience of over eight billion.

The final was eventually won by Canada, who defeated Brazil 2-0 in the final.



CRAIG JOHNSTON

Australian coach Craig Johnston obtained permission from the English FA to have four of the Socceroos released from their English First Division clubs one month prior to the World Cup so they were able to join the Socceroos on their World Cup warm-up tour of South America.

Parramatta Eels beat Gold Coast Surfers in the National Super League final 4-2 to walk away with the Sir Arthur George Trophy and \$100,000 in prize money for the second year in succession.

Officials at Bruce Stadium expressed concern about the increase in activity by ticket scalpers, who this year were asking \$50 for a cup final seat.

Two new franchises were issued for the NSL.

The Gosford Boatmen will join the Townsville Sharks in 1991, taking the NSL to a total of 20 franchises.

Two other franchises have also changed hands, with Tooth Breweries buying the prestigious Tasmanian Tigers franchise in Hobart and Kerry Packer

paying \$500,000 for the Sydney Slickers franchise.

NSL coach Murray Barnes renewed his contract with Wollongong Wolves at an undisclosed figure which is believed to exceed \$100,000.

In an international challenge series played in December, the NSL's Sydney Slickers competed against Spurs, Real Madrid and Celtic in a knock-out challenge series at Parramatta Stadium over a 10-day period.

The series was won by Real Madrid, with Slickers in third place.

The ASF formed a Medical Review Committee to prepare a report on injuries being sustained by players on Astro Turf and prepare recommendations on how best to overcome the problem of turf burns to players.

The ASF also outlawed the use of wooden and metal goalposts and passed a mandatory ruling that polypylene-moulded goalposts must be used by all soccer league clubs in the future.

The new ruling allowing up to three substitutions to be made at the start of each 30-minute quarter in pro matches has now received unanimous support from all coaches in the country.

The NSW Soccer Federation set up a series of crash coaching courses for school teachers in an effort to cope with the 200,000 young boys and girls now registered as junior players in that state.

The year also saw the introduction of mixed teams of boys and girls competing at school and local club level, which is now allowable in all teams under 13 years of age.

The year also saw NSW take out the Australian Schoolboys' Carnival, with the Knox team narrowly beating Geelong Grammar 2-1 at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

The National Indoor Soccer League final at the Sydney Entertainment Centre was won by Liverpool Colts, who stormed to a tremendous finish in the final quarter against Perth Stingrays to win 15-10.

The above fact or fiction story appeared at the beginning of the ASF Marketing's splendid report, published way back in 1981.

As it turned out, some 10 years later, the story is fiction.

But it could well have been fact had the powers to be acted upon its positive recommendations.

I mention all this here on the eve of the release of the much talked about Bradley Report.

I do not share the enthusiasm of most for the



MURRAY BARNES — fiction would have the former ace coaching a top NSL outfit in 1990, and commanding \$100,000 a year...dream on.

Bradley Report for two reasons.

It will tell us not one thing about how the game should be run in this country.

Secondly, and more importantly, will its recommendations be acted upon?

If past experience is any guide, the report will be released, praised — and nothing will be done to alter the direction of our great game.

I hope I am wrong. Whatever the Bradley Report confirms to us all, the problems within Australian soccer are quite simply that the game is run by the POLITICAL process, not the EXECUTIVE process.

Until that basic fact changes, we can all talk and report as much as we like.

Some years back I vividly remember talking to Frank Lowy, the former Sydney City supremo and leading businessman, about the possibilities of him taking over the reins of the ASF once Sir Arthur George stepped down.

"No chance," said Frank "while the game is run on the political decision-making process."

"I am an executive, not a politician, and I am not going to be on the phone all day and night making sure I have the numbers for any executive decision I may make."

That, I'm afraid, says it all.

Hopefully, the Bradley Report will change this, but I doubt it.

Riot control



ENGLAND, keen to improve its tarnished image in European soccer, has given courts new powers to stop hooligans attending big matches abroad.

The Home Office interior ministry says courts will be able to impose restriction orders on fans found guilty of soccer violence.

Offenders will have to report to police stations at home when English teams are playing key matches abroad.

Authorities are worried violent clashes could break out between English and Dutch fans when the two teams meet in the opening round of the World Cup in June.

The two sets of fans are considered the

most likely to make trouble during the competition.

EVANS HEADED FOR BRISBANE

FORMER Scottish international Allan Evans is quitting British football to take up posts in Canada and Australia.

The 33-year-old centre-back, who has been released by English Second Division side Leicester City halfway through a two-year contract, is to play for Victoria in Canada first and will then go on to play and coach in Brisbane.

Evans was a member of Aston Villa's 1982 European Cup-winning team.



THE WARREN JOHNNY COLUMN



Billions of TV Cup viewers

THE estimated number of television viewers for the forthcoming World Cup finals in Italy is now far greater than had hitherto been forecast on the basis of cautious figures issued by FIFA.

Italy is situated in a time zone which serves large areas of the world's population well, and taking into account the huge rise in expected viewers in Asia, this year's World Cup will probably attract 26.5 thousand million television viewers for all 52 World Cup matches.



up with the international television signal, thus enabling them to tune into World Cup reports.

3,750,000,000 are expected to watch the World Cup in Western Europe, a 12 percent increase on 1986.

In Eastern Europe, a 10 percent increase is projected, and North America's television audience is estimated at 520 million, a four percent increase on Mexico.

The South and Central American viewing public will almost match Western Europe's.

Some 3,500,000,000 Latin Americans should tune in to catch the action from Italia '90.

African audiences will total 2,580,000,000 viewers, while Asia will attract a mammoth 13,190,000,000 — a 478 percent increase on 1986.

And finally, FIFA projects a World Cup viewing audience of 30 million for Oceania — a 56 percent increase on Mexico '86.



In the World Cup in Mexico in 1986, 13.5 thousand million viewers were reported to have watched all the games.

The main reason for this astronomical leap in viewers — practically twice as many — can be traced to China.

There has been an enormous increase in the number of television sets in the world's most populous country and, what is more, interest in soccer has spread apace.

The increase of 122 percent in Africa can be explained by the number of countries (25 compared to 12 in 1986) which have linked



SBS, of course, will bring in all 52 Italian matches live and the soccer network expects very high ratings.

Kids! Don't miss it...

Johnny Warren appears on SBS Television on Tuesday afternoons as Captain Socceroo. Tune in at 4.30pm, and learn just how to keep your football improving.

QNSL PRELIMINARY FINAL PICTORIAL



Paul Donnelly takes a tumble under the watchful gaze of Robbie Hooker (No 3) and Robbie Ironside.



The Olympic fans erupt on the Parramatta Stadium "hill" after Abbas Saad's winning goal.



SYD OLYMPIC v MELB CROATIA



A typically aggressive midfield stance last Sunday.



Paul Donnelly and George Hannah watch in amazement as Steve Refenes strains every muscle to deny Melbourne Croatia's Andrew Marth (No 3) the ball.



Josip Biskic gives Gary Phillips and Abbas Saad the slip.



Jubilation in the victorious Olympic dressing room after the Sydney club's preliminary final triumph.



**ALL PHOTOS BY
HECTOR CARRASCO**

Fly-by-night referees

BY FRANK SCICLUNA

IT may well be that somewhere along the line I'm simply missing the plot but for the life of me I just cannot understand the reasoning behind some of the referee appointments this season.

Two recent semi-finals were a case in point.

Melbourne's John Santa-Isabel was brought up to Sydney for the Marconi v Melbourne Croatia game.



GARY POWER

On the very same Sunday, Gary Power travelled south to take charge of the South Melbourne Hellas v Sydney Olympic elimination semi-final.

Why? The necessity for a "neutral" referee was obviously not the answer as neither match had one.

So what was the point for all that needless travelling up and down the country?

Surely, Power could have just as easily handled the Sydney game while Santa-Isabel remained at home for the other one.

What difference would there have been?

This was by no means an exceptional instance, similar situations have occurred

countless times throughout the year.

It would serve little purpose to catalogue every case where senseless appointments of this kind were made.

I only need to mention the deferred and totally meaningless clash between Sydney Croatia and Wollongong on April 28 when Denis Voutsinas was surprisingly bought up from Melbourne.

Or worse still, Sydney Olympic's postponed match against St. George on a Wednesday night at Edensor Park when the kick-off was delayed for 15 minutes because Chris Brambridge's flight from Melbourne arrived late.

There seems to be no reason whatsoever why Sydney based referees could not have taken charge of both those fixtures.

One can well understand the need for interstate referees when the occasion warrants it but these instances were nothing of the kind.

The whole matter cannot simply revolve around cost.

A referee flown into Melbourne from Adelaide would have been no more expensive than sending Power down to Sydney for the semi-final.

By the same token, a Newcastle referee such as Jim Reeves could have easily been given the Marconi v Melbourne Croatia match at Parramatta.

What's more, both

semi-finals would have then been handled by neutral officials.

These sort of totally illogical appointments have cropped up with monotonous regularity right throughout the season.

What sense did it make to bring in Jim Rossis from Adelaide for a Wednesday night postponed fixture between Marconi and Blacktown?

A couple of weeks later Richard Lorenc had to fly to Melbourne for Marconi's clash with South Melbourne.

Wouldn't it have been far more sensible to simply reverse these appointments, thus providing neutrality to both fixtures at much less expense?

Talking to one of our referees recently, he also expressed a great deal of amazement at some of these appointments, but as he explained: "The NSL itself make the decisions these days."

"I cannot understand their logic but I just have to accept them."

As I pointed out from the start, there may well be a perfectly simple line of reasoning which I'm completely blind to. I just wish for the sake of credibility and cost effectiveness someone can explain it to the public.

BOGEYMAN

While on the subject of referees, Richard Lorenc must be hot favourite to get the grand final appoint-

ment on Sunday in recognition of his selection by FIFA to represent Australia at the World Cup finals.



RICHARD LORENC

Lorenc goes to Italy next month with the very best wishes of all soccer fans but I suspect that the Marconi camp may be a little apprehensive should he get the big one this weekend.

For some inexplicable reason, the champions have not had the best of luck recently in matches where Lorenc was in the middle.

Although they have won 35 out of 55 league matches overall in the last two seasons — a 63.6% success rate, Marconi has only been successful in three out of nine outings under Lorenc, or just 33.3%.

This record can only point to one of two possibilities.

It's either nothing more than a huge coincidence or Lorenc may simply be a bogey to Marconi in the same way every team has a bogey side which they rarely ever beat.

Whatever the case, I'm sure fans out Bosley Park way will breath a lot easier if they see someone else blow the whistle to kick off the grand final on Sunday.

Mark Bosnich Aussie student gets valuable lesson

BY MARGARET McDONALD of AAP

SYDNEY student and Manchester United reserve goalkeeper Mark Bosnich made his English First Division debut two weeks ago with 30,000 Old Trafford fans screaming in his ears.

Last weekend, after failing to be named in United's squad for the FA Cup final, he was still one of the 80,000 spectators at Wembley for the match against Crystal Palace and that will be unique in itself.

"I've only seen it on TV before. Like every other Australian soccer fan I got up in the early hours of the morning to watch," Bosnich said.

This time he was on the right side of the world, and had even picked the right team in which to be an understudy.

Although United finished a lowly 12th on the First Division ladder in a three-way tie with Manchester City and, ironically, Crystal Palace on 48 points, they managed to make it to Wembley for the FA Cup final.

Bosnich says it was not realistic for him to expect to be in the squad for Wembley as he considers himself as the club's third string goalkeeper now.

His commitments with the Youth Cup — where United lost to Tottenham in the semi-finals — and the reserves team meant



he could not be an effective standby for United's first choice goalkeeper Jim Leighton.

Second choice goalkeeper at United is former Luton Town custodian Les Sealy.

"If I got injured then there was nobody to back Leighton, things got very hectic at the end of the season and I was always away for other games," Bosnich said.

It was a thigh injury to Leighton which put Bosnich on the field at Old Trafford on April 30 for a league game against Wimbledon, the 1988 FA Cup winners.

"United coach Alex Ferguson told me I would get a run one of the last three games of the season, so it was no real surprise to see my name on the starting line-up," he said.

But from a player's point of view, it was a surprise to hear just how much noise 30,000 people can make.

"You are con-

centrating on the game so you don't really hear it, but every now and then you get a burst through your eardrums," he said.

"It's very hard to communicate with your defence."

Bosnich, who played with Marconi and Croatia before coming to England two seasons ago, is not on contract with United.

He is studying economics, geography and psychology at Central Manchester College and finishes there next year but his ambition is to establish himself as a regular First Division player if he can obtain a work permit from the British Home Office.

The season officially ended in England with last weekend's Cup final but Bosnich, like his English teammates, will be back for pre-season training for the 1990/91 competition on July 10.

In the meantime, he's off to Yugoslavia to see relatives and soak up some sun.

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Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . . Chit Chat . . .

JOE Venglos is reported to be annoyed that his application for the Soccerroo coaching vacancy has been leaked out as he is still, of course, very much involved with Czechoslovakia's World Cup preparations.

ASF chairman John Constantine is due back tomorrow from his flying visit to Bratislava to interview Venglos.

He has already had talks with two of the other candidates — Rale Rasic and Berti Mariani.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC's financial troubles have taken a turn for the better.

The club, fined \$100,000 for unpaid back taxes, raised the money at its annual presentation ball by raffling a BMW automobile at \$200 a ticket — and the players have been paid three weeks in owed salaries.

THE Melita Eagles board was to have met coach Raul Blanco yesterday (Tuesday) to sort out the bad feeling created when it fined Blanco \$500 three weeks ago after he allegedly failed to show up for a training session before the club's final fixture of the season, a deferred game against St George.

FORMER executive Brian Emery has been given the tough task of supervising security at Cagliari and Palermo during the World Cup finals. FIFA has put him in

charge of Group F, which includes Holland, England and Eire.

Emery was also on FIFA duty at the 1982 and 1986 World cup finals and at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Tony Musumeci, better known in Canberra for his exploits in the National Indoor League with Canberra Strikers, Belconnen United and Inter Monaro, has joined the coaching staff of Canberra City Concordia as a goalkeeper coach. Musumeci has also registered as a player but has no immediate plans to make an outdoor comeback.

SOCCEEROO captain Charlie Yankos has turned down an offer to coach NSW State League side Avala. Charlie considers himself a free agent after spending the inaugural QNSL summer season with demoted Blacktown City.

Yankos will appear regularly as a studio guest panelist on SBS-TV during the World Cup.

APIA skipper Bruce Halliday will be back on deck next season. In fact, he was the first Leichhardt player to sign up for next season. Halliday last week left on a two-week holiday in his native England.

NICK Scali is the new president of the Apia club, replacing Nick Papallo. Scali expects to have most of the

Apia players re-signed by the end of the week.

SOCCEEROO defender Wally Savor is uncertain about his future.

Five weeks ago he had his left knee reconstructed and he is not at all confident about his future with Sydney Croatia, the club he has been associated with for 15 years.

Equally hard to take is missing the club's tour of Croatia in July.

THE South Melbourne squad is off to Hawaii for a close-season trip. The players' wives will be joining the players after the first week.

MIKE PETERSEN did not have a happy 25th birthday this year. The date coincided with South Melbourne's semi-final loss to Sydney Olympic.

It was the second time his team was eliminated on his birthday, the last occasion being when Heidelberg lost 3-2 after leading 2-1 near the end.

DESPITE an excellent season, it is not at all certain that Melbourne Croatia coach Ivan Raznjevic will still be at the helm next season...hard to believe, but true none the less.

Raznjevic is not worried, however. The US citizen says he is ready to leave any time if the club is not happy with him.

"There are many other clubs in the world where I can find a job," he says.

AURELIO Vidmar will not play for Adelaide City next season. The star Soccerroo midfielder leaves on June 10 for the World Cup finals in Italy and will stay over to trial with second division Reggina. "I'll do my preparation there and will stay if things work out," said Vidmar, 23. "If not, I'll be fit and ready to meet a challenge elsewhere." Vidmar also has contacts in Greece. "I will be away for at least a year and have told coach Eddie Thomson I will not be available for the Soccerroo series against Hajduk Split. I'll definitely not be back to play for City next season because I want to give Europe as big a go as possible. I'm really excited about the trip and I'm far better prepared than the last time I went to Italy. You have to be ruthless there. I'm much more mature as a play-

er and know much more about how to handle things."

BRIAN Garvey has quit as coach of Adelaide Hellas. Neil Bonnar has taken charge of the club's Foundation State League team. Garvey, appointed in December after the sacking of Peter Jaksa, failed to keep Hellas in the NSL. "I was a full time coach and with only the State League to play for I felt it was better if I stepped down. A full time coach was not needed," said Garvey. "I am very disappointed at the way things worked out. This is the first time I have taken over a club in mid-season and I was unhappy that I did not get as much from the players as I would have liked." Garvey is likely to stay in SA to work in security.

SCOTTISH striker Gordon Dalziel may be returning to Australia, this time to join Preston, whose new coach John Gardiner is keen to sign him after he finished third top scorer in the Scottish Division One this season. Dalziel played four games for South Melbourne in 1989.

ZLATKO Arambasic has signed a three-year contract with crack Belgian club Mechelen.



Sydney Olympic, beaten 4-1 by South Melbourne, get runners-up medals in the NSL Cup. Robbie Hooker is being presented by Victorian premier John Cain. Officials (from left) are NSL chairman Sam Papasavas, ASF chairman John Constantine and NSL general manager Peter Russell.

Mechelen's Australian agent, Miron Bleiberg, said last weekend he could not release any figures, but Arambasic, 20, had got a lucrative deal for himself.

The youngster insisted on a clause in his contract releasing him for Soccerroo duty.

SOUTH Melbourne coach Ferenc Puskas met Victorian tourism minister Steve Crabb last week and has agreed to be an ambassador for Melbourne's 1996 Olympic bid.

Puskas leaves on May 30 and is not expected back until mid-

September. He will take in the World Cup finals while in Europe.

HEIDELBERG president Nick Katsakis underwent a skin graft after receiving second degree burns to 15 per cent of his body in a domestic accident. Our best wishes for a speedy recovery.

SURELY it only is a matter of time before NSL clubs get wise to the treasure trove of talent on their doorstep in Asia. South Korea has made the World Cup finals and top flight Asian players are meeting the challenge of top class leagues in Europe. Wage scales in Australia should make playing here attractive. All it would take would be some club with enterprise to go and have a look at who could be available. Some potential big NSL star could just be waiting for a call.

IT's not only Frank Farina who is doing well in Europe. Israeli striker Ronnie Rosenthal, whose team knocked Australia out of the World Cup, is now a fully-fledged Liverpool player. Rosenthal was signed to a three-year contract, in a \$2.4 million deal, last weekend after scoring seven goals in five games for the Reds while on loan from Standard Liege.

ERRATA

We offer the following adjustments to our Marconi Tribute of May 2 1990 issue.

Minor Premiership appearances: David Lowe 25.

Goalscorers: Fred de Jong 7, Gerry Gomez 4.

Also we apologize for portions of Greg Blake's page 5 South Melbourne v Sydney Olympic stories of May 9 being transposed.

Posa seeks post



TONY Posa has been working for more than three years for Blacktown City soccer club as goalkeeper coach.

Some of the players he has trained are John Crawley, who recently

signed a contract with Chilean team Colo Colo, and well known keepers Steve Watson, Bill Londos and Steve Mautone.

Posa is now available to coach a National or State League club's keepers and can be contacted on 622 8025 after 6.30pm.

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ABC TV's match commentator Mike Hill (right) pictured with team member Alex Murphy by ASW photographer Hector Carrasco

Albion retain their top spot

BY MARC BREKAU

Albion Turk Gucu maintained top position with a 1-0 win against Mooroolbark at Selwyn Park, but the away side were unlucky not to have secured a point for their effort.

Mooroolbark had by far the greater amount of play in the first half, but for poor finishing the scoreline might have read differently after 90 minutes.

A more composed Albion side took the field in the second half and it was here that they won the match.

A free-kick was flicked on by MacLeod past the outstretched hands of keeper Scanlon after 56 minutes.

Albion continued to take control of the game after MacLeod's goal, led by some good work in midfield by Kadlecik.

The Albion defence allowed little room for Mooroolbark to work the ball as James and MacLeod controlled their respective positions.

CAULFIELD CITY 2 MORWELL FALCONS 1

Two first half goals were enough to give Billy Rae's Caulfield the points against Morwell, who were lucky not to have lost by a far wider margin.

Caulfield took the lead after 15 minutes when Con Pappas fired home a shot and he made it 2-0 15 minutes later when he took a free-kick and sent it past keeper Dave Reynolds, who appeared bemused when the ball found the back of the net.

Morwell made what appeared to be a comeback in the second half when they scored from a Doyle corner, Harry Bingham rising to head home after 50 minutes.

Alas, for Falcons' supporters, that comeback was shortlived and Caulfield should

have made it 4-1 but for some poor play by their forwards.

Falcons' only other attack of note occurred when McGrellis bustled his way through to the penalty area only to be tackled before he shot by Fatore.

BOX HILL 1 RINGWOOD CITY 1

Ringwood's run of bad luck continued against Box Hill in a game that drifted into a stalemate.

Box Hill were led on by Paddy Cooper, who was outstanding for the home side, and it was he who opened the scoring when he received the ball from McCloud and fired home after 24 minutes.

Ringwood, looking for their first win since Round 10, found Box Hill a difficult opponent and could only manage to equalise through Shannon in the second half.

Mounting pressure by Ringwood did little to extend the scoreline, and after 90 minutes Box Hill were unlucky not to have collected their first win of the season.

THOMASTOWN 0 ST ALBANS 0

Thomastown and St Albans played out a dull match with little creativity being shown by either side.

Both teams were allowed little freedom in front of goal, perhaps an indication of just how few scoring opportunities were available to either side.

Thomastown's best chance was presented to Christaldo who pulled off a great save from 'keeper Mate Grgic when faced one on one in the second half.

St Albans' Goran Trogrlic hit the crossbar 20 minutes before the end in one of his team's better attacks.

St Albans are now entrenched in the middle of the table, and coach Ivan Bebic will have his work cut out for him if St Albans are to improve on this position in the future.

BRUNSWICK JUVE 4 BULLEEN 1

It was the Smith and Lane show on Sunday as Juventus thumped a lacklustre Bulleen at Middle Park in front of a large and vocal crowd.

It took just five minutes for Brunswick to open proceedings through Shaun Lane when he latched onto a through ball and scored from close range.

Bulleen equalised five minutes later through Branov, and gave the impression that Bulleen were going to give Juve a run for their money. Nothing could have been further from the truth, though.



Melbourne Croatia, winners of the National Youth League (Southern Division): back row, left to right: Josip Bebic (coach), Marijo Tarle, Dino Mihocic, John Botica, Joe Rados, Marko Varvodic, Tom Lovric, Paul Jurcic, Mark Silic, Mate Bacak (manager). Front row: Richard Milanovic, Denis Bergam, Vinko Bulubasic, Robert Ivanovic, George Tadic, Ivan Lucic, John Kovcevic. Missing: Joe Bacak. Photo ROY HAY

A two-goal blitz in 10 minutes gave Juventus the lead before half-time.

First, Steve Smith scored with a powerful header in the 33rd minute and 10 minutes later Smith scored his second, again with a header, as he repaid some of his \$16,000 transfer fee.

Fifteen minutes before the end, Juventus made it 4-1 when a cross by Egan found Smith whose header hit the bar.

Shaun Lane was close on hand to slot in the rebound for his fourth goal of the season.

FAWKNER 1 FRANKSTON PINES 0

Player coach Jim Ross saw his side go down by a solitary goal as Fawkner strove to keep in contact with the league leaders.

Fawkner had by far the majority of the play in this match, but suffered by poor finishing up front.

However, it required only one good break to secure the home side the two points.

Andy O'Dell burst forward after receiving a long ball worked up from defence and lob-

bed 'keeper Davies as the Pines were caught on the break just before half-time.

CROYDON CITY 0 GREEN GULLY 1

"I felt that we didn't deserve to lose this game, but there is little you can do when a goal is scored like that," said Croydon coach Ian Dobson as Gully scored a win over his side.

Green Gully surprised many of their fans when they selected 39-year-old Lou Denys to play between the posts, their current first and reserve team keepers being both injured.

Denys kept a clean sheet, but survived some near-misses from Croydon's forward line.

John Gabrielson and David Klepac hit the crossbar in the first half as Croydon surged forward, intent on taking the points to remain in touch with leader Albion.

Then came the killing blow for the home side in the second half.

A long kick by Denys found Tommy Daley, who fired his shot into a crowded goalmouth.

Greg Brack tried to clear but instead only managed to scoop the

ball into his own net after 60 minutes play.

ALTONA GATE 0 NORTHCOTE CITY 2

Former Preston coach Ljube Jancev, recently appointed at Altona Gate, found little to cheer about as his team lost to a spirited Northcote who fielded a different team to the one that lost 3-1 midweek to Albion and controlled the flow of play throughout.

Despite losing striker Peter Cocker through injury in the first half, Northcote scored after 75 minutes when Altona's goalie failed to hold a Manny Anazakis shot, the loose ball being tucked away by Robbie Palmaricciotti.

Two minutes from the end, Northcote made it 2-0 when Jimmy Constantino crossed from the left and saw the ball swerve into the net, possibly wind-assisted.

HEIDELBERG 3 MELBOURNE JUST 1

Heidelberg secured second place on the table, with former Preston player George Slifkas making his debut.

Angie Goutzioulis scored after 10 minutes when he headed home from eight metres and Jimmy Tsarikis made it

2-0 five minutes later when he skilfully beat two JUST players and fired the ball into the net.

JUST pulled one back when McMinimee shot from outside the box and beyond the reach of Jeff Olver after 50 minutes, but in the 79th minute a poor clearance resulted in Heidelberg's third goal, Goutzioulis punishing the JUST defence.



Scottish silverware... Aberdeen's Theo Snelders, Alex McLeish and Brian Irvine with the Scottish FA Cup

VSF



This weekend

Saturday May 19: Mooroolbark v Altona Gate Vardar, Northcote City v Box Hill, Morwell Falcons v Heidelberg United.

Sunday May 20: St Albans Dinamo v Albion Turk Gucu, Bulleen Veneto v Ringwood City, Caulfield City v Brunswick United, Melbourne City v Croydon City, Green Gully Ajax v Fawkner, Thomastown v Frankston Pines.

VICTORIA

RESULT MAYA: Northcote City 1 (Anezakis), Albion 3 (Azzopardi, Patsaman, Karayel).

Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Albion	15	9	5	1	23	7	23
Heidelberg	15	10	1	4	33	15	21
Croydon	15	9	3	2	21	14	21
Thomastown	15	8	5	2	22	18	21
Bulleen	15	8	4	3	24	18	20
Fawkner	15	8	3	4	23	18	19
Green Gully	15	8	2	5	20	13	18
Juventus	15	7	3	5	23	12	17
Morwell	15	5	6	4	18	13	16
Northcote	15	6	3	5	19	15	15
Caulfield	15	6	3	6	21	20	15
Melb. JUST	15	3	7	5	14	19	13
St Albans	15	4	4	7	18	11	12
Altona Gate	15	3	6	6	15	18	12
Mooroolbark	15	3	4	8	12	18	10
Ringwood City	15	3	3	9	16	32	9
Frankston P	15	1	2	12	9	34	4
Box Hill	15	0	3	12	11	37	3

Top Scorers

10 — Lewis (Heidelberg); 7 Douglas (Albion); Eres (St Alb), McMullen (AG), Tuck (BV); 6 — Klepac (Croydon), Pappas (Caulfield).

BRADLEY REPORT

THERE will be a briefing for the media at the Camperdown Travelodge at 3.30pm on Friday by Dr Graham Bradley.

This follows the presentation of his report to the commissioning bodies, the Australian Soccer Federation and the National Soccer League.

There is a growing feeling of optimism that the leaders of the code will listen to the advice and implement the major recommendations.

Improvements evident in competitor sports will dictate that its ideas are not swept under the carpet.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SCENE

with Alan Clark

THE SA Soccer Federation has given Croatia relief from the testing six games in 16-days schedule it faced with the re-programming of its West End Premier Cup fixture with Salisbury on June 5.

That tie, and the meeting of Apac and Lion, now will be held on Wednesday, June 27.

Campbelltown and Birkalla Eagles were last week's Cup winners against Beograd and Para Hills respectively.

MODBURY has terminated the coaching contract of Steve Amos.

Jim Muldoon, joint leader at Golden Grove, has been confirmed as senior coach. He took over the reins when Amos was suspended last month.

"It was a difficult decision for the club committee to make," said PR man Terry Thorp.

Amos, dogged by injury and personal problems this season, will have to decide if he will continue playing at Modbury.

Scottish import George Whyte, here on a three months working visa, trained with the club last week and Modbury is confi-

dent he will sign for the rest of the season.

Whyte, a solid, confident player from Scottish junior club Forfar West End, fitted in well at training last night but at least two other Foundation League clubs are keen to talk with him.

THE SA Soccer Federation board has fined Modbury \$1200 and Beograd \$800 for their part in an unseemly fracas after their match at Golden Grove on April 14.

Both clubs were put on a two year \$1200 good behaviour bond.

Modbury has appealed against the decision.

Three Beograd players were sent off in a brawl with fans AFTER the match at Modbury's home ground.

Modbury midfielder Bryan Kent got his marching orders in a totally unrelated incident.

FORMER State junior goalkeeper Jarrod Thrun is hitting his straps with Campbelltown.

The youngster has gained his first team chance with an ankle injury to Chris Higgins and has played impressively for the bud-

ding young Red Devils.

CROATIA has been given a boost with teenage defender Douglas Paterson taking his first steps back to fitness.

The big man has had the cast removed from the leg he broke in Croatia's Ampol Cup final win and cannot wait to regain fitness.

He is undergoing extensive physiotherapy treatment.

ADELAIDE City has just completed its most successful season.

That is despite not winning the title, as it did in 1986, or getting past the first elimination playoff.

City coach Zoran Matic pointed out that his side's 34 points tally was the best ever in the NSL.

The transfer deadline for clubs within SA is June 30 and any loan agreement would have to end then for City men to be reinstated for the NSL start in October.

City skipper Sergio Melta seems the centre of the latest loan speculation with Saturday amateur club CBC after him.

TRANSFER listed Adelaide Hellas striker Lemmy Vatsilas has taken a break from soccer to consider his future.

Vatsilas was suspended by the club for voicing some opinions over former coach Brian Garvey.

He continued his protest and was put on the transfer list.

He looks likely to join a Second Division club to enjoy his soccer when he returns from holiday in Queensland.

ADELAIDE Hellas is bidding for an extension to the visa of Scottish import defender Martin Doak so he can see out the Foundation State League season.

Doak's contract and visa expire at the end of this month and he was lined up to return to his former club Morton in Scotland.

But the player will now keep open his playing options.

Striker Raymond Blair is awaiting permanent residency.

ANY Adelaide City player seeking a loan move to another club in SA only will be able to play until June 29 if he wants to be eligible for the start of next season's QNSL.



Young Sydney Croatia defender Mark Babic is a model of alertness, as he is snapped by Janusz Kamma at the game against Adelaide Hellas in Adelaide on April 6. Croatia won 1-0.



Unseemly NSW Challenge Cup shambles

BY GRAHAM COOKE

THE NSW Challenge Cup final between Canberra Croatia and Sydney Macedonia was one of those promotional nightmares which only soccer seems able to dream up.

The Cup is a prestigious competition dating back more than 30 years and numbering among its former winners St George, Apia Leichhardt, Sydney City and Marconi.

The advent of the National League and a lack of sponsorship has resulted in it contracting to a pre-season knockout involving only the teams in the NSW League first division.

Even so, it deserves something better than the ridiculous predicament when one of the finalists was not known until less than 48 hours before the match was scheduled to take place.

The weather in Sydney is hardly under the control of the NSW Soccer Federation, but surely more detailed

planning is needed in order to ensure there is a reasonably measured progression to the final.

Croatia is the holder — last year's win over Melita Eagles was the club's first major trophy — and when it became obvious the team would reach the final again, the Federation sensibly decided to allow it to stage the big game.

Canberra secretary Bert Kret had plans for a promotional campaign with the aim of breaking the Deakin Oval ground record for a NSW game. That founded on the confusion surrounding the final when the week beforehand began with no fewer than three teams still with a chance of winning the Cup's B division and facing Croatia in the final.

In the end, a creditable crowd of more than 1500 turned up to see Croatia retain the Cup with a 3-0 win over a Macedonian team which had been forced to play four matches in the previous eight days.



ALAN REIS

Charlton Athletic at Seiffert Oval

BY GRAHAM COOKE

TOMORROW'S match between the ACT and English League side Charlton Athletic has been switched from Bruce Stadium to Seiffert Oval in Queanbeyan 'in order to keep faith with the area's fans'.

A statement from the ACT Soccer Federation says the cost of renting Bruce for a floodlit game would have made it impossible to keep a stated promise that admission prices will not rise above \$8 an

This situation cries out for a later date for the final.

Soccer is not well served by this off-hand treatment of one of its major state competitions and it is something which new Federation president Peter Thorne could well examine.

adult and \$4 a child.

ACTSF president Ron Watkins has said he believes higher prices would put the event beyond the reach of many Canberra area families.

A Seiffert venue will allow the basic price structure to be continued at a ground which has most of the facilities currently available at Bruce.

Registered junior players in their club strip and accompanied by a fee-paying adult will be admitted for a dollar rather than for free, as was the case for the match against Indonesia last month.

IN THE ACT

THE ACT Soccer Federation has reached agreement with Ampol for a further 12 months extension to their sponsorship agreement.

The link goes back to 1972, making the deal one of the longest running in Australian soccer.

Senior League chairman Don Rushan, who negotiated the latest arrangement on behalf of the Federation, says he is delighted it will continue.

JOCK COULTER, the ACT League's unofficial special projects officer, is at it again.

Coulter, who organised a successful promotion in front of the old Parliament House during the Canberra Festival, is now busy with a World Cup Ball to be held in late June.

There has been no decision on a venue but Coulter reckons the tickets will be selling at \$60 a double.

People who want tickets or to find out more about the event can phone the ACT Soccer Federation office on 248 0614.

Mizz Muench on 231 6096 or Mauro Valeri on 295 1015, all during business hours.

THE draw for the semi-finals of the Federation Cup pairs Canberra City Concordia and the University of Canberra and Juventus v Belconnen United at Woden Park. Matches will be played on Queen's Birthday Monday.

A course for trainee referees begins at the RSL Club in Civic on May 27 from 7pm to 9pm. Further sessions will be held on May 24, 29, 31 with an examination on June 7. More information from Ken Allen on 241 8086 and 295 7175 or Terry Wyatt on 241 6915 and 266 4600.

ACT Futsal's Wally Conlon has been selected to coach the Australian under 14 boys' team which will take part in a five-nation tournament in Argentina in late November.

—GRAHAM COOKE

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FAIR PLAY AWARDS

THE pride of the south, Cumberland and Blackwood, have won the Home Fresh Bakeries Fair Play Award for April.

Cumberland did not incur any penalty points in Division One while Blackwood picked up only two in Division Two.

Second and third placings in the divisions went to Azzurri (6), Adelaide City (8), Para Hills (10) and Apac (14).

Modbury, with 35 points, was the First Division 'bad boy' for the second month in a row. It now has accrued 95 points.

Elizabeth City was the worst behaved in Second Division with 26 points while Olympians trail overall with 48 points.

Coaches Tommy Preston (Blackwood) and Dave Baker (Cumberland) received prize-money cheques from Home Fresh Bakeries chief Allan Cocks.

"This award shows there is discipline in the team. That is important and it shows we advocate skill as a priority," said Preston.

—ALAN CLARK

Queensland ready for Charlton Athletic

BY GREG RUSSELL

QUEENSLAND coach Bruce Stowell has turned to youth to take on touring English side Charlton Athletic at Perry Park on Sunday May 20.

Stowell overlooked some of the State's more experienced players including last season's captain Alan Niven, to pick a side he hopes can match the enthusiastic style of the relegated first division outfit.

Although 32-year-old Brisbane City midfielder Frank Pimblett, the likely captain, is certain to anchor the midfield, he will be surrounded by a team with an average age of only 24.

The Queensland squad is: Rob Farrow (Lions), Frank Mengotti (Lions), Andrew Stowell (Lions), Nick Meredith (Lions), Jim McDonagh (North Star), Clayton Koch (Pine Rivers), Pimblett (Brisbane City), Stuart Woodruffe (Mount Gravatt), Stein Groom (Easts), Lee Hosier (Gold Coast), Shane Haddow (North Star), David Hunter (Lions), Paul Halford (Gold Coast), Chris Slater (Lions), Noel Carroll (Pine Rivers).

Four of the squad - Stowell, Hosier, Slater and Carroll - will be making their Queensland senior debut but the side is not devoid of representative experience.

Nine of the squad

were in the Queensland residents team which prepared for last year's washed out April 25 clash with NSW while five of the latest Maroons squad toured the United States with the State indoor team in January.

The surprise inclusion was Gold Coast midfielder-striker Lee Hosier.

But those who have watched the attacking-minded player in recent seasons could understand his inclusion.

Many consider Hosier was unlucky to be overlooked in preference to Gamblers team-mate Paul Cockburn for the tour to New Zealand three years ago.

"He has always been thereabouts in the past," Stowell said. "I see Lee as an excellent support for Nicky Meredith, moving into area when he moves out."

Stowell intends going to Canberra this week to watch Charlton's opening tour match against the ACT before deciding his final lineup but is confident he has a squad which can compete with the English club's physical style.

"Having seen Charlton on television this year it was obvious the match was going to be a fast, physical game and to compete with that I knew I had to look at some of the younger players," said Stowell.

He said it had been a tough decision to axe Niven but explained his reasons to the 33-year-old former Soccerroo several days before announcing the team.

Stowell added he would be attempting to ensure his players, and in particular the exciting teenage Rivers duo of Carroll and Koch, were not over-awed by the touring opposition.

"I want them to go out and do their stuff. I will be looking at how we might nullify Charlton, but I won't be stereo-typing my players," he said.

"I'm hoping that if they do what they are capable of, a few players in the squad have the ability to unbalance Charlton."

Stowell will dangle a further carrot in front of the squad. Although the June clash with NSW will be along State of Origin lines again, Stowell said he would not hesitate to retain his resident squad if they do the job against Charlton.

"The players are being given the chance to show me what they can do at a higher level," he said. "Those who perform well enough certainly will be retained for the Origin clash."

After playing Queensland this Sunday, Charlton will head into the country to play Bundaberg (May 22), Rockhampton (May 24) and North Queensland (Townsville May 26).

Greer appeals



TALENTED young Rochedale defender Stuart Greer is hoping an appeal this week will help him get a new club.

Greer, 19, who clinched Brisbane selection this season, has begun training with XXXX League premiers North Star after falling out with new Rochedale coach John Stewart.

Rochedale have transfer-listed the midfielder-fullback at \$2000. Greer has lodged an appeal which will be heard by the QSF management committee this week.

"I won't know until after the appeal where my future lies," Greer said. "I've enjoyed training with North Star but it's impossible to finalise anything until the QSF hears my appeal."

But Greer and North Star might be wishful thinking if they hope for a considerable reduction in Greer's fee.

Although he came to Rochedale as an amateur, he is one of the most promising players in the competition.

And the QSF management committee set a standard recently when it reduced Russell Stewart's fee by only \$2500 to \$12,500, ruling that as a 26-year-old he still had plenty of football left.

Former Eastern Suburbs midfielder-striker Chris Fegan has returned to Heath Park after failing to break into the Taringa Rovers side.

Fegan had an impressive season with Rovers two years ago after switching from Easts but spent last year overseas.

He returned to Speare Park this season but found the depth at Taringa had increased during his absence.

Mount Gravatt player-coach Alan Niven has shown he is not shy to make the tough decision when he recently axed experienced Roy Smyth and Brent Simpson from his first team.

The Hawks are surprise stragglers at the foot of the XXXX

Gold Coast loses gamble

BY GREG RUSSELL

NEWLY-promoted Acacia Ridge caused the biggest Ampol Cup upset in years when they eliminated the powerful Gold Coast Gamblers in the first round last week.

The Ridge, in their first season in XXXX League in four years, won a penalty shoot-out 4-3 after the two teams finished 1-1 at the end of extra time.

The Gamblers, who were Cup winners in 1988 and semi-finalists last year, only forced extra time when former New Zealand international Paul Halford snatched a late equaliser.

The Ridge had gone into the lead thanks to another goal from their free-scoring new import Marc Flemington in the first half.

While the XXXX League side weathered repeated attacks from the Gamblers, their win was just reward for a never-say-die effort with a weakened team.

The Ridge went into the match without captain Norm Bell, striker David Richardson, midfielder David Crane and goalkeeper Carl Spruce.

"We did it tough but it proved the character of the side and the club," Thompson said. "It was a win for the working class."

The Gold Coast also had their injury worries with Halford playing after missing several games with knee problems but the loss was a disappointment for coach Jim Selby who was looking to continue his successful Cup record.

The defeat came just a week after the Gamblers were surprisingly beaten 6-2 by Brisbane in the Inter-city series, although the Coast side then had six regular players on the sidelines.

Selby believes a late start to the season had put his team behind the eight-ball.

"Most of our guys had played only two fixture games while some XXXX League blokes had played seven," he said.

"With wet weather

and injuries, we didn't have one training session with everyone there."

Although the Ampol Cup has always been a key part of the Gamblers promotion of soccer on the holiday strip, Selby said his side's early exit from the competition would only be a minor setback.

"We already talked about it and have a lot of other things on the go," he said.

The Gamblers will continue training for the remaining Intercity matches to be played in August and had received an invitation to play exhibition matches in Northern NSW.

"We also probably will invite an NSL team to the Coast for a summer soccer pre-season match," Selby said.

The Gold Coast are still looking at National League, although the club has adopted a lower profile in recent months.

But it is understood detailed planning has been made behind the scenes and the Gold Coast could be a surprise submission to rival the QSF and the mooted private consortium if the Bradley Report gives the go-ahead for a Queensland franchise.

In other Ampol Cup matches, surprise XXXX League strugglers Mount Gravatt scored their first win of the season when they outed second division side Inala City 2-1.

Second division leaders Brisbane Croatia also nearly caused an upset when they held Brisbane City scoreless for almost 80 minutes before lapses in concentration were punished with two goals.

Pine Rivers and Nerang played an entertaining tie at Underwood Park with the XXXX League club winning 4-3. XXXX League premiers North Star surprisingly struggled before beating second division St Helens 2-1 while Olympic United comfortably moved into the next round with a 3-1 win over Sunshine Coast.

Acacia Ridge's coaching team



THE school holiday period in June will herald the most adventurous coaching clinic ever to be held in Queensland soccer history.

The course is headed by Eddie Thomson, the Australian National Director of Coaching, and Phil Thompson, the ex-Liverpool and England star who now coaches the Liverpool reserves.

They are joined by one of Australia's all-time greats, John Kosmina.

Alan Hunter, another Soccerroo now with Sydney Croatia, and Brisbane City's popular captain, Frank Pimblett,

round off the impressive coaching team.

Eddie Thomson, a star player in his own right, played top football in Scotland with Aberdeen and Hearts before becoming the most successful coach in Australian National League history.

His coaching record with the Soccerroos in association with Frank Arok was enough to ensure his future for many years to come.

Phil Thompson's record as player is hardly surpassed in British soccer.

He played for England no less than 42 times and he has won three European Cup winners' medals, an UEFA Cup medal, an FA Cup medal, and a swag of First Division winners' medals.

John Kosmina is perhaps Australia's best-ever striker.

His talents took him overseas to join Arsenal and his goalscoring feats have made him the

National League's all-time leading scorer and, of late, he has been the co-presenter of ABC-TV's 'The Big Match' programme.

Hunter, an Acacia Ridge boy himself, went on to NSL and Soccerroo status and has played with Brisbane Lions, Heidelberg and Sydney Croatia.

Big Al's credentials as a top national team player and Olympian ensure more top coaching along with the much-travelled Frank Pimblett.

Pimblett enjoyed a professional career in English soccer after spending his formative years at Liverpool.

His days in Australia with Brisbane City and Queensland have made him one of the most respected local stars.

Contacts for bookings are: Mike Collins 376 8624 (AH), Ross Wilson 277 2692 (AH) and Sandra Fagan 273 2745 and 277 1541 (clubhouse).

FA CUP REPLAY

THE English FA Cup final will be replayed at 4am EST Friday after Manchester United and Crystal drew 3-3 at Wembley on Saturday.



The regulation 90 minutes ended 2-2 and both teams scored in extra-time to force a replay.

Bryan Robson and Mark Hughes (2) scored for United; O'Reilly and substitute Ian Wright (2) for Crystal Palace.

The sell-out crowd was treated to a thrill a minute and a draw was a fair result.

In Glasgow, Aberdeen won a marathon shoot-out to win the Scottish Cup, beating luckless Celtic 9-8 on penalty kicks.

The winner of the FA Cup replay will represent England in next season's European Cup-Winners' Cup — if English fans behave in the coming World Cup finals.

Junior Club Corner

★ WE want to expand our team photographs; suburban and Youth League, city and country, NSW and all states.

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Melb Croatia qualifies for national play-off

BY ROY HAY

MELBOURNE Croatia are the champions of the National Youth League (Southern Division) after defeating Altona Gate 4-2 on penalty kicks at Altona City Soccer Club last Sunday.

An even match produced two goals in the first 16 minutes, then became a midfield war of attrition, which produced no further goals in normal or extra-time.

These two teams were the best in the NYL this season and were very evenly matched, despite their contrasting styles of play.

Each won one of the home and away encounters and it was clear that the final would be a closely fought game.

Croatia dominated the opening 10 minutes, hitting the post and bar and forcing Altona Gate to defend desperately.

The breakthrough came in the 10th minute when Croatia broke clear on the right and Richard Milanovic fired in a drive, which Hus Skenderovic followed up.

The latter claimed the goal, but referee Stan Bialecki confirmed that Milanovic's shot had crossed the line.

This bright opening was not to set the pattern for the rest of the match, which was to be fought out in midfield.

Altona Gate, with its measured build-up, continued to have more of the play, but Croatia kept pushing searching balls forward for Mark Silic and Joe Bacak to chase, which they did



Joe Bacak, top scorer for Melbourne Croatia in the National Youth League (Southern Division) in 1990 Photo ROY HAY

with great spirit.

Altona Gate responded quickly with Robert Trajkovski and Tony Grozdanovski forcing openings down the flanks.

Following a corner kick after 16 minutes, Ljube Trajkovski came up from the back and headed home to equalise.

Klaudio Cerin replaced Tom Lovric at half time for Croatia and his pace troubled the Altona Gate defence, while at the other end Joe Rados had to look lively to deny Grozdanovski following a corner.

Rados was punching cross balls away and Altona Gate missed some opportunities to place strikers on the edge of the box to take advantage.

Robert Trajkovski

went off and Peter Necovski came on and began to control the game from central midfield for Altona Gate.

Extra-time came and went with no addition to the score and in the gathering gloom the match went to penalty kicks.

Altona Gate missed its second kick and Rados brought off a diving save to stop the third, so when Bacak, Mark Silic, Paul Juric and Hus Skenderovic scored for Croatia the match was finally over.

Socceroo Paul Wade presented the trophy to the winners, who will represent Victoria in the NYL Grand Final at Parramatta Stadium this Sunday.

RESULT

Melbourne Croatia 1 (4pen) (Milanovic) Altona Gate 1 (2pen) (Trajkovski).

APIA LEICHHARDT scored a shock 2-0 win over minor premiers AIS to become the National Youth League Northern Division champions.



Apia will now play Melbourne Croatia in the national final at Parramatta Stadium next Sunday in the curtain-raiser to the QNSL grand final.

Apia's great week started on Wednesday night when they beat Blacktown City 3-0 at St George Stadium.

Blacktown were unlucky the scoreline was not closer as Sam Butera had an outstanding game in goal for Apia, denying Blacktown one certain goal and positioning himself brilliantly on several shots.

Apia's first goal was scored by Gulic in the 10th minute and in the 33rd Martinich made it 2-0.

Butera produced an amazing one-handed save to deny Comerford in the 68th minute.

Apia had M. Reda sent off in the 75th minute, which did not prevent them from scoring a third goal three minutes later through Beaufils.

In the grand final, Apia were out to avenge their major semi-final 4-1 defeat, and they did

just that.

Tight marking put the AIS off their stride and rock-solid defending by the Apia defence gave AIS strikers Trajanovski and Radecki not one clear-cut chance in the first half.

Apia always looked more likely to score on their dangerous counter-attacks and went 1-0 up in the 22nd minute, Kdoun finishing off a clever move started by Beaufils.

Ten minutes later it was nearly 2-0 when Matincich on the edge of the box turned his defender three times before getting a low drive towards goal which goalie Talia saved well to his left.

The AIS' best chance of the first half came four minutes later when Radecki created space for an unmarked Darren Hillier, who passed to Stephen Loric on the edge of the box where he turned and volleyed over the bar.

The AIS' task became much harder when they were reduced to 10 men after Troy Ganney was sent off in the 50th minute.

However, this seemed to spur on the AIS lads, with Trajanovski creating danger in the Apia goal.

Apia's second goal came somewhat against the run of the play when in the 74th minute Martinich raced into the box, back-heeled to Cabanas, who passed to Reyes, whose shot was only parried by goalkeeper Talia, enabling Lahanan to race in to put the rebound into the net.

Try as they may in the final minutes, the AIS

were unable to get a consolation goal.

All is not lost, however, for them as they have another chance for honours this season when they take on St George next Tuesday evening in the Youth National League Cup final.

But for Apia it's the big one they will be



chasing at Parramatta Stadium this weekend against their Victorian counterparts.



Steve Refenes (left) and unused substitute Eric Hristodoulou are all smiles in the dressing room after Sydney Olympic's QNSL preliminary final win last Sunday — HECTOR CARRASCO photo.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY welcomes Letters to the Editor.

They should be signed, with name, address and telephone number stated.

Mail letters to ASW, PO Box 406, Broadway 2007.

They may cover any relevant topic in the entire world of soccer.

NEW SOUTH WALES

STATE LEAGUE CONFERENCE A

BHP Austral v Marconi	0-0	4-4
Warringah v Sydney Macedonia	0-2	2-1
Wollongong City v Avala	2-4	1-0

STATE LEAGUE CONFERENCE B

Inter Monaro v North Shore Utd	1-2	4-0
Sutherland Shire v Wollongong Mac	2-2	1-2
Blacktown City v Polonia	0-1	0-1

STATE LEAGUE TWO

Auburn Yugal v Campbelltown	0-2	0-3
Manly Warringah v Waverley	1-1	3-3
Petersham v Fairfield City	1-1	0-3
Southern Dist v Central Coast	3-1	4-1
Rosebery v Dulwich Hill	0-3	1-0
Orange Waratahs v Gladesville H'by	1-3	0-2
Mt Druitt Town v Granville Chile	1-1	1-2

FEDERATION LEAGUE THREE

North Ryde v Concordia	1-3	0-0
West Wanderers v Bathurst	2-3	4-0
Uni of NSW v Mt Pritchard	1-5	3-4
Lemnos Allstars v Canterbury & Dist	2-1	1-0
Port Hacking v Cyprus United	2-0	0-6
Hills United v Bankstown	1-1	0-0

FEDERATION LEAGUE FOUR

Colo Colo v Concord Juniors	0-0	2-1
Belmore Hercules v Hajduk Rangers	1-0	0-1
Croatia Syd Jnrs v Arncliffe	2-2	forfeit
Rooty Hill v Spanish Club	1-2	0-3
Nineveh Eagles v Hawkesbury Dist	1-0	0-2
SSC Zagreb v Trasandinos	1-2	0-0

FEDERATION LEAGUE FIVE

CSI Schofields v Sydney Uni	1-0	0-3
Chile Sports v Prospect United	1-2	0-0
Alexander v Macquarie Uni	2-1	0-0
Lithgow Workmen v Maccabi Hakoah	1-0	0-2
Ashour Star v GNS United	0-0	1-2
Sporting Peru v W.D. Hellas	0-3	2-3

FEDERATION LEAGUE SIX

New Welcome v Liverpool Oly	2-1	1-4
Fogolar Furlan v Assyrian	8-0	0-0
Liverpool City v Abruzzi	2-0	2-1
Pontian Eagles v Cobreloa	4-1	4-1
Penrith v Pagewood Botany	2-3	2-2
Balmain v St Josephs	3-4	3-2

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: 1ST DIVISION

North Ryde RSL v Illawarra	6-1
Melita Eagles v Mt Druitt Town	5-0

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE: 2ND DIVISION

North Ryde RSL v Gladesville Rns	0-2
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Our girls prepare for the World Cup

BY PETER KONSTO

THE Australian national women's team has just completed a seven-month intensive fitness programme as part of its preparation to make the 1991 women's World Cup in China.

The programme is based on the highly successful one used by the Australian women's hockey team which won gold at the Seoul Olympics.

After being tested at the Australian Institute of Sport Physiology Department, two members of the squad, Linda Hughes and Anissa Tann, were found to have achieved a level of fitness equivalent to that found in elite male athletes.

Six others attained a fitness level in the elite female category.

The programme itself incorporated long distance running to build up endurance levels, together with a heavy weight training programme to eliminate excess body fat.

The next step in this carefully structured build-up to get to the World Cup is psychological analysis being done on each of the players by AIS Sports Psychologist, Dr John Crampton.

Analysis of these psychological tests will allow Dr Crampton to recommend whatever measures needed to prepare the squad mentally for the tough road ahead and individuals with motivation, goal setting and relaxation techniques



ANISSA TANN

Speaking about the current preparation, women's national coach, Steve Darby said: "The first stage was to get the players physically fit."

"Now we want them mentally fit so they don't cave in under pressure, and the third stage is to speed up their game and technique in competitive situations."

As part of the third stage, the women's national team have been playing against men's teams and the AIS squad whenever possible.

A proposed camp in

June will see them play three games against top class male opposition in the ACT.

Such preparation will indeed be needed if the women want to be competitive in the World Cup against the female professionals from Europe.

However, their first objective is to beat New Zealand in the Oceania qualifying rounds to get to China.

With the preparation undertaken under coach Darby, their trip to the ultimate women's soccer tournament is right on track.

1994 World Cup, England tour are on agenda

BY KEITH GILMOUR

A brand new Technical Committee will be set up by the Australian Soccer Federation, regardless of which candidate is appointed national coach.

ASF chairman John Constantine is due back in Sydney today, after interviewing prime possibility, Dr Joe Venglos, in Czechoslovakia.

Also on the short list are Eddie Thomson, Berti Mariani and 1974 supremo, Rale Rasic.

Mr Constantine told ASW: "We will be looking to a technical group to feed the ASF with advice on match requirements for the national teams."

"The ASF will then integrate this information with its international program and financial arrangements."

"We will be increasingly planning on a four-year cycle, which will enable us to secure more quality opponents for the Socceroos."

"High on our priorities is to secure a place in the 1994 World Cup in the United States."

Mr Constantine has already reported to the commissioners on the outcome of his recent trip to New Zealand, where he consulted with both Oceania chairman Charlie Dempsey and NZFA leaders.

"England will be in New Zealand next year for their Centenary celebrations, and has agreed to play here as well."

"We are looking at the possibility of staging a three-nation tournament, rather than one-off games."



John Constantine

Tidying up the arrangements for the England tour will be in the hands of ASF general secretary Alan Vessey.

He will be in Rome for the FIFA meetings just prior to the World Cup and he will also visit London as well.

Mr Constantine's initiative in discussing Oceania points of interest is a forward step.

The objectives of large Oceania nations Australia and New Zealand are quite similar when all the dross is removed from the cauldron.

Smaller Pacific countries can aim for coaching help to assist their futures.

A practical approach must send the larger and also the less affluent countries down the right roads to future success.

Youth team prepares

AUSTRALIA youth coach Les Scheinflug is "pleasantly surprised" with the technical improvement made by many of his Australian Youth team charges.

The present squad of 30 trialled in Canberra last week, and the final squad will be chosen at the next camp there on June 17/23.

Scheinflug's concern is to sort out any potential players of high quality who have not shone yet because they haven't had sufficient background experience.

More research will also come to hand on other players, from information supplied by coaches across the states.

In July the Australian Youth squad will undergo a six-match tour of Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

The Oceania qualification series will be held in Fiji from 2/15 September.

The top two Oceania teams, of which hopefully Australia will be one, head off to Israel in February to

compete for a place in the 1991 World Youth Cup in Portugal.

— KEITH GILMOUR

NSW State League

Demons unconvincing as Polonia comes home

WITH more than six changes in the Blacktown City line-up after last season's disappointing display, it was expected that far better performance would be forthcoming.

But the Demons carried on where they left off in the NSL.

Passes went astray, the defence was like a sieve and the attack can only be described as weak.

There was a promise of locally produced talent gracing the Gabby Stadium, promotion of several former reserve team players was expected — both failed to eventuate.

Within the first few minutes the Demons were under pressure on the right as Beamer sliced through the inept defence to slot home a well taken goal to put Polonia 1-0 ahead.

In the second half the Demons showed more determination but could not penetrate a well organised Polonia defence.

Geoff Gunning was showing more flair

from a central striking position and forced a one-handed save from Polonia goalkeeper Thurlow.

With only five minutes to go McKinna got himself into a good position and his rocket shot scraped the top of the bar with the goalie well beaten.

— DAVID COOPER



GEOFF GUNNING

STOP PRESS

Cliff Pointer, the Blacktown City defender and assistant coach, has taken over as coach of Avala.



Paul Gomez

Young Blacktown City midfielder, Paul Gomez, will trial in Spain at the invitation of three First Division clubs. Osasuna, Rayo Vallecano and Valencia. Gomez recently toured South America with the NSW all schools team. In South America Gomez, 18, created an excellent impression and has been invited for further trials at the end of year by Universidad Catolica, one of the most prestigious clubs of the Chilean First Division.

Olympic and Preston punishment modified

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

THE appeal to the NSL judiciary panel by NSL clubs Sydney Olympic and Preston regarding the fines imposed for the crowd riot at St George Stadium resulted in the fines being drastically reduced.

Olympic and Preston were originally both fined \$5,000 and also had to play their home matches against each other next season behind closed doors.

At the hearing, the Olympic fine was reduced to \$2,500 and Preston's dropped to \$1,000.

The panel also decided that the two home matches to be played behind closed doors will now be open to supporters.

However, the panel lifted the original \$10,000 one-year sus-



pending bond to \$20,000 for two years.

After the decision was released, it was understood that the NSL executive was far from happy with such reductions in punishment.



AUSTRALIAN SOCCER POOLS

ASW has made approaches to State Federations for provision of competition tables included on the Pools coupon, now that the Pools cover Australian games.

It will be a pleasure to print them to assist punters in all cases where they come to hand.

REGIONAL NEWS

ASW is always keen to publish some stories, and pictures from main regional centres throughout Australia.

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Amateurs aid flood victims

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation wishes to help both the Nyngan Junior Soccer Club and the Nyngan Senior Soccer Club return to normal after the devastation caused to property by recent flooding.

In order to start proceedings, general manager Cec Buccello has sent out an appeal to all Associations seek-

ing both financial donations and equipment such as old strip (soccer clothing), boots etc, to be sent to the state office for forwarding to Nyngan.

Financial donations will be converted to equipment purchased from sponsors as selected by the Nyngan clubs.

The State Amateurs will start the ball rolling by donating \$1000 worth of sponsor's equipment.

Presentation of

goods and money collected will be made personally by newly appointed Promotions and Development Officer, Robert Wheatley as soon as practicable.

With the N.S.W.A.S.F. being the largest single sport State Body in Australia, having over 107,000 registered players, the final collection should be enough to satisfy all of the needs of the Nyngan clubs.



POLONIA Youth League U14: S Hottes, B Jones, A Bell, B Dollar, M Krawiarz, D Brown, J Barnes, M Kuru, R Darkitny, J Carr, S Ektas, D Musolino, D Duroux. Coach: R Hottes. Mgr: R Bell.

Private schools in Cup

BY LINDSAY HEWISON

AS testimony to the growing popularity of the Commonwealth Bank Bill Turner Cup in Sydney, entries were received for the first time from GPS schools Sydney Grammar, The Kings School, Scots College and Sydney Boys High as well as from associated school, Waverley College.

Trinity Grammar made a welcome reappearance after an absence of four years. As a result of this increased popularity,

eleven preliminary matches had to be played this year in the six areas covered by

Sydney.

In the south-east of Sydney Lurnea High, which had been runners-up in the inaugural 2SM Cup competition in 1980 (the forerunner of today's Commonwealth Bank Turner Cup), had fallen on lean times and usually faced a thrashing every year.

These performances had led to the team being relegated to a preliminary match this year.

Lurnea briefly returned to the glory days of 10 years ago, when in front of an audience of half the school, not the mere handful of spectators it was usually accustomed to, they recorded their first win for years against Bossley Park High.

In area 13, two of Sydney's oldest schools battled in a Round One game at Lambert Park.

Newcomers Sydney Boys High were opposed to Fort Street High.

Sydney started like a whirlwind, hitting the bar twice and narrowly missing on another occasion but, somehow, Fort Street weathered the storm and began to mount attacks of their own.

However, late in the first half Sydney midfielder Martin Kovacs found Jimmy Aschner with excellent passes twice within five minutes, with the result that Sydney Boys led 2-0 at the interval.

Fort Street were a team possessed at the

Soccer wins hearts

THE NSW Amateur Soccer Federation led the way with a most impressive soccer information stall at Darling Harbour as part of Heart Week 1990.

Public interest was very high and many people were made aware of the amount of soccer material we have to offer.

The two highlights of the day were the practical soccer sessions put on by the Skills Squad.

They demonstrated intense concentration when they were put on centre stage for their 20 minutes routine.

This included a superb working of several Weil Coerver moves which pleased an appreciative audience.

Thanks to Skill Squad members Isat and Ibish Akdemiz, Troy Fleeting, Frank Flammia, Simon Mak and Kain Rasjell.

The other major event was our mini soccer field which allowed cast members of Channel 9's 'Family and Friends' serial to play against the Skill Squad.

Although reluctant at first, the young stars from Channel 9 soon found the appeal of the game was irresistible.

Oscar Gonzales gave a deal of time and effort to the project.

beginning of the second half and attacked the Sydney goal in waves till finally Jim Richardson rounded goalkeeper Saurabh Gupta to put Fort Street back in the match.

However, Sydney Boys striker Jimmy Aschner was not to be denied and two further goals wrapped up the match for Sydney Boys High 4-1.

An impressive debut in the competition, indeed.



Amateurs, Juniors and Schools News

Send your stories and pictures to
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Telephone (02) 660 2033 FAX (02) 692 0649



MARCONI Under 12: M Reberger, C Aganostos, M Cabaday, B Choyce, J Vassallo, S Jenkins, R Hidalgo, A Flynn, W Spiteri, A Cetnic, A Farjardo, P Krljar, R Simone, R Raniere, R Richards. Coach: N Froio. Mgr: J Choyce.

Babic star for Hurstville

BY LINDSAY HEWISON

DEFENDING champions Hurstville Boys High, although having lost many of last year's team, are through to Round 4 of this year's Commonwealth Bank Cup competition.

Under the leadership of Sydney Croatia star Mark Babic, Hurstville defeated hapless Endeavour 10-0 in the first round before scoring a fine 6-1 victory over Maroubra, conquerors, surprisingly, of James Cook.

In a match played in torrential rain, in conditions more suited to waterskiing, Hurstville raced to a 4-1 lead over Blakehurst before conceding two late goals to cling to a 4-3 win in round 3.

Round 2 in Met. West region saw a great game between Mitchell and Pendle Hill.

A very even first half between two good teams saw the teams locked at 0-0 at the interval

Ten minutes into the second half Pendle Hill took the lead through John Pereire after good work from Lawrence Hall.

With 10 minutes to play Mitchell equalised through Al Senol and then with only seven seconds remaining David Marcos of Mitchell scored an absolute screamer from 25 metres.

Jason Sultana of Mitchell and Erwin Easthorpe of Pendle Hill were their teams' best players.

Mitchell have since beaten surprise team Merrylands 1-0 to reach round 4. Also there are Castle Hill, having a fine season under coach John Cairns, with excellent wins over Muirfield and Holroyd both by 3-1 and last year's quarter-

finalists, Parramatta, with wins over Crestwood 4-1 and Rooty Hill 2-0.

Although it is early days in Met. North, there have already been major upsets, with Kuring-gai downing Normanhurst Boys 3-2 and Marsden defeating Epping boys 3-1 in a game which saw Epping score all four goals, including the ignominy of the goalie throwing the ball into his own net.

A disappointing exit for what was supposed to be a very good Epping side this year.

Early days too in Met. Southwest though the runners-up of two years ago, Fairvale, have had two good wins over St Johns 4-0 and Liverpool Boys 3-2 in a cracker of a game.

They play Canley Vale in round 4.

UMBRO YOUTH LEAGUE

ROUND 14 SATURDAY MAY 12 DIVISION 1

		U13	U14	U15	U17
Stn Districts	v St George	0-0	0-1	0-2	1-2
Cant/M'ville	v Syd Olympic	0-3	1-4	0-2	2-0
Macarthur	v APIA	3-0	2-2	1-5	1-2
Illawarra	v Syd Croatia	2-1	2-0	3-3	0-15
Melita	v Nepean	3-1	1-0	4-0	1-0
Bankstown	v Blacktown City	2-3	1-1	2-1	0-3
Marconi	v Sutherland	2-2	1-2	4-1	1-1

ROUND 14 SATURDAY MAY 12 DIVISION 2

Stn Branch	v Ku-ring-gai	2-2	3-1	2-3	3-1
Fairfield City	v Canterbury	0-1	6-1	1-6	L/F
Warringah	v Granville	0-7	5-0	1-0	2-2
Stn & Eastern	v Gladesville	0-1	0-0	0-1	1-0
Polonia	v Manly Warringah	3-0	0-3	0-1	0-0
Central Coast	v Avala	3-1	1-1	3-1	1-1
Rockdale	v Blacktown	0-0	1-1	3-0	4-0

Mitre Metro Representatives

ROUND 7 SUNDAY MAY 13 DIVISION A

		U11	U12
Canterbury	v Bankstown	1-0	2-1
St George	v Granville	0-1	0-0
Illawarra	v Sutherland	1-4	0-1
Macarthur	v Stn Districts	2-1	0-2
Stn Branch	v Blacktown	2-0	0-2

DIVISION B ROUND 5 SUNDAY MAY 13

Stn & Eastern	v 1-1	0-0
Gladesville	v Manly Warr.	1-2 0-0
Central Coast	v bye	— —
Macquarie	v Ku-ring-gai	3-1 5-2

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CENTRAL COAST U17: Adam Mark, Dylan Carter, Chris Carpenter, Brett Davis, Glenn Durie, Greg Follett, Nigel Forster (absent), Jarrad Hiles, Steve Kennedy, Brendon Leary, David Melverton, Kevin Mezzone (absent), Jason Potter, Ty Purnell. Coach: Brian Follet. Manager: Vic Durie — Pic: H. Carrasco



Egypt will be struggling

BY TIM COLLINS*

IT is more than 50 years since Egypt last qualified for the World Cup finals and, as a result, they might be excused if they arrive already exhausted from some premature celebrations when this year's World Cup finals begin in Italy this June.

Such a prospect is exceedingly unlikely however since the national team which will face Holland, the Republic of Ireland and England in Palermo and Cagliari has been built of stern stuff, solid teamwork and a fanaticism for the game as instilled by their national coach Mohamed El-Gohary.

"We have an important philosophy," he said. "We used to have stars but now we have team-work. And out of the team-work we find new stars."

Egypt's last World Cup appearance was way back in 1934.

In those finals, won by the hosts, Egypt were knocked out in the first round by Hungary who beat them 4-2.

They had qualified for the finals by beating Palestine 7-1, a result that takes some imagination to put in to context these days.

This time, the Egyptians of El-Gohary have reached Italy by an African qualifying section.

Having disposed of Liberia, Malawi and Kenya to reach the final play-off they then faced Algeria over two legs and triumphed by the only goal of 180 minutes of attrition in Constantine and Cairo.

"Now we can only expect to do our best in a very difficult group," said El-Gohary, who, like most Egyptian managers is dubbed 'the Captain' and rarely referred to as a coach or manager.

"But I know that all our opponents are tough and experienced. Our only advantage is that we know their tactics much better than they know ours. If we can make use of that, we have a chance. The main thing is that we want the world to respect Egyptian football."

The oldest of the footballing nations in Africa, it has taken Egypt a long time to regain the summit of soccer on that continent.

Thanks to Englishman Mike Smith, they were able to celebrate at the zenith in 1986 when they won the African Nations' Championship, defeating Cameroun in a

penalty shoot-out in the final.

This secured their third African triumph, having won it previously in 1957 and 1959. They were also runners-up in 1962.

The bulk of Egypt's squad has been drawn from the country's top two clubs Al-Ahly and Zamalek and taken away already on an intensive preparation programme.

A series of a dozen friendly warm-up matches against various levels of European opposition was devised by El-Gohary to ensure peak condition in Italy.

Talent is in short supply but the Egyptians can point to one goalscorer in Hassam Hassan with the ability to finish accurately and tempt a dream of a place in the second round.

Unfortunately, the player most likely to have helped create his chances, Hisham Abdel-Rasoul, is not going to be there — he suffered a fractured leg in a car accident last December.

FOOTNOTE: Coach El-Gohary has announced he will step down after Italia '90 as a result of public hostility when Egypt lost friendlies in Cairo in March.

*courtesy
WORLD SOCCER



Action from the West German Bundesliga clash between FC Koln (light shirts) and Hamburger SV — Photo courtesy NEWS LIMITED

SAMP'S EURO CUP!

TWO goals in extra-time by Gianluca Vialli gave Italy its second European trophy for the season when Sampdoria beat Anderlecht, of Belgium, 2-0 in the Cup-Winners' Cup final in Gothenburg, Sweden, last Wednesday.



The regulation 90 minutes were quite uneventful, but the magic of Vialli set the extra-time period alive and Sampdoria were deserved winners.

The Belgians never looked like scoring against a tight defence, and until Vialli took matters in his own feet, a penalty shoot-out had appeared inevitable.

The Swedish fans must have had a premonition as the stadium was not quite half-filled.

Sampdoria's first-ever European trophy means that if AC Milan downs Benfica on May 23 in Vienna, Italian clubs will have achieved an unprecedented European grand slam.

The return leg of the all-Italian UEFA Cup final between Juventus and Fiorentina is played tonight (Wednesday).

Juventus won the first game, 3-1, at home.

The South American Scene

BY MARIO ETCHART



OSCAR TAVAREZ

URUGUAY, the first winners of the World Cup in 1930, and again in 1950 after a memorable 2-1 victory over Brazil at Rio's Maracana Stadium, will attempt to change its image of a rough team and play a more modern style of disciplined and skilful football at Italia '90.

Oscar Tavaréz, the Uruguayan coach whose intention it is to change the picture of the rough team of Mexico four years ago, will base his strategy on the individual class of his players and their ability to play as a cohesive force.

Tavaréz believes that the main factor in the success of a team is given by the individual capacity of each player.

The Uruguayan supremo also believes that the surest way to achieve the best results is to play fluent football.

In a side that showed a good balance in all its lines during the last Copa America and the qualifying round against Bolivia and Peru, the Uruguayans mixed the weight of their individualities with a 4-4-2 system similar to the European style, a tactic that produced the

expected results.

Tavaréz pointed out that Group E in the World Cup finals, composed of Uruguay, Spain, Belgium and South Korea, would be a hard assignment to overcome.

However, he is confident that the team will win the group because all the opponents are within reasonable reach, and no-one of them is better than his side.

Tavaréz is an adherent of the zonal defensive system, with great emphasis in the control of the midfield, the 'neuralgic point', according to the coach, where matches can be won or lost.

It is in midfield where the defensive and offensive strategies develop.

Since Tavaréz took charge of Uruguay in August 1988, the team has played 35 matches, won 18, drawn eight and lost nine, and has

scored 56 goals and conceded 27 — a good achievement according to the experts.

In a poor economic environment, the main obstacle for the coach has been the impossibility to have at his disposal a stable squad to develop his plan of action.

A tiny South American nation, Uruguay has exported more than 850 players in the last 10 years.

Last August, seven of the 24 players selected by Tavaréz were transferred to overseas clubs; today 13 of them are playing with European or Argentine teams.

Only two of the first team choices are still in Montevideo.

This will be Uruguay's ninth participation in the World Cup finals, and Tavaréz' aim is to improve the image of Uruguayan soccer and to be amongst the best four countries in the world.



ROBERTO MANCINI — triumphant with Sampdoria last week when the Italians won the European Cup-Winners' Cup at Anderlecht's expense.



Marseille's Franck Sauzee wins this duel for possession in the course of France's recent 3-1 win over Hungary in Budapest.

Arsenal pledges youth policy

ARSENAL manager George Graham pledged to keep faith with his youngsters next season even though they have failed to last the pace in the English League title race this term.

"I'm going to stick with young players like Paul Merson and Kevin Campbell," he said.

"I think they're two of the most promising young strikers in the country and I can see them leading our attack for a long time to come."

"I know Merson has not had that great a season and Campbell is still learning his trade, but while they're learning, if I go out and buy a big-money player, they'll become unsettled."

"There's no reason why, with this team, we cannot be challenging for the title over the next few years, perhaps, with the addi-



tion of one or two other players, if and when we need them."

The Scot admitted his team had found it hard to live with the burden of being the champions this season.

Graham said: "The attitude of the players here has been first-class, but we've been in a new situation this season, champions."

"The players up till now have not learnt to cope with that."

"Next season will be different."

"In our last couple of games we've actually done enough to win both, and yet only got a draw and a defeat."

"We're very disappointed overall this season, but we were still in third place until recently."



BY LOU GAUTIER

- Ebbe Skovdahl has quit as coach of Brondby in Denmark to take over as Vejle head coach. His successor at Brondby is the great Danish veteran Morten Olsen.
- Universidad Catolica midfielder Jaime Pizarro has been voted best player of the recently concluded Chilean championship.
- Former Dutch international star Ruud Krol has been appointed coach of Swiss club Servette Geneva, replacing Hungarian Peter Pazmandy. Krol was sacked by Mechelen six weeks ago.
- Brazilian central defender Mauro Galvao is likely to be transferred from Botafogo to a French club next season. His Rio club is asking for \$8 million and Montpellier may buy him to replace another Brazilian, Julio Cesar, who will move to Portugal.
- The Malian Federation have suspended referee Manu Traore for life. He is alleged to have accepted a bribe when refereeing the African Nations' Cup third place play-off between Zambia and Senegal in Algeria two months ago.
- Portuguese coach Toni will replace Yugoslav Tomislav Ivic at the helm of Paris Saint Germain next season.
- Turkey and the Republic of Ireland will meet in a friendly at Izmir on May 25. The two countries have been drawn in the same Euro-92 qualifying group.
- Fenerbahce will complete the Turkish season minus its star striker, Ridvan Dilmen, who has suffered a serious ankle injury which will sideline him for at least three months.

ITALIA'90
WORLD CUP
COUNTDOWN



England needs greater flair

BY TREVOR BROOKING*

NOT surprisingly England were far from happy with the World Cup draw when they once again found themselves grouped with the Republic of Ireland and Holland.

Just as in West Germany and the 1988 European Championship they must face Jack Charlton's team first on June 11, and then five days later take on Holland.

Their final Group F match on June 21 is against the weaker Egypt, but Bobby Robson will be hoping that by then they will have made a much brighter start to the tournament than before.

Ray Houghton's early goal proved decisive two years ago, and the impressive results achieved in reaching Italy suggests The Republic will be just as difficult in this opening fixture.

England did not concede any goals in their six qualifying games, while the Irish defence was just as resilient with only two in eight matches.

It will therefore be optimistic to expect to many goals in the opening encounter.

Even in Mexico in 1986 England started the tournament badly by losing 1-0 to Portugal and then drawing goalless that fiery match with Morocco, which saw Bryan Robson dislocate his shoulder and Ray Wilkins shown the red card.

There was a feeling that the training preparation for both the Mexico and West Germany tournaments had been very demanding, and the disappointment of those early matches might point to a reshaping of the build-up this time.

After a long domestic season which has the last league fixtures on May 5, it will be important to gently ease the selected players through the five-week period leading to the opening match.

It will be important not to drain them on the training pitch, and leave them jaded when the real work begins.

So can England improve on that quarter-final place in Mexico, when Maradona's "hand of God" was to play such a decisive role?

The key to success is dependent on a doubt affecting so many of the competing countries: are England capable of scoring goals in the crunch matches?

It is a genuine worry as in the harder matches against Sweden and in Poland, the scoresheet remained blank.

The first choice striking partnership remains Gary Lineker and Peter Beardsley, who blossomed together four years ago in Mexico.

The pairing has spluttered somewhat in recent months, but that problem has not been helped by the quality of service from midfield and defence.

Attacking must be a team responsibility and not a case of pointing the finger at those who are expected to score the goals.

So let us look at the expected line-up for that match on June 11.

In goal Peter Shilton has shown by a series of consistent performances that life continues at 40.

He remains unchallenged at present, and I expect David Seaman and Chris Woods to be the goalkeepers helping him through his punishing training routines in Italy.

The back-four of Gary Stevens, Des Walker, Terry Butcher and Stuart Pearce has remained fairly immovable throughout.

The anticipation and pace of Walker has been a huge plus in the last couple of years and his partnership with the experienced Butcher is crucial.

Pearce and Stevens have often been criticised and both are certainly reluctant to venture forward into the attacking areas of the pitch.

Stevens is probably more threatened with the versatile Paul Parker his main challenger.

It is in central midfield that Bobby Robson is unsure as Neil Webb and captain

Bryan Robson have each suffered a long-term injury.

Hopefully Robson should be fit and refreshed for Italy, but his likely partner can be one of many.

Webb's fitness must be a gamble and so at present Steve McMahon is the favorite, but his style is very similar to Robson and they would lack the passing subtlety of other countries.

The main alternatives appear to be the unpredictable but brilliant Paul Gascoigne from Spurs, or else Villa's David Platt, whose daring runs from midfield have bought him so many goals this year.

This would leave the wide midfield players to be automatically Chris Waddle and John Barnes, as David Rocastle struggles to recapture his form.

Chris Waddle has emerged as one of England's most consistent performers this season, and he and Barnes will shoulder most of the responsibility of unlocking opposition defences.

I believe there should be two places in the squad for that surprise package that so often surfaces during a major tournament.

Steve Bull of Wolves will hope it is him, but there are many other worthwhile claims for Tony Daley (Aston Villa), Kerry Dixon (Chelsea) and the young Southampton duo of Matthew Le Tissier and Rodney Wallace.

All have the individual flair to impress in the next few weeks, but Bobby Robson may remain cautious and rely on the tried and trusted.

It is a very open competition, and by the time one gets to the last eight the destiny of the 1990 World Cup will depend on a mixture of skill, flair, nerve, determination, and possibly in the end lady luck!

* former England international star, — courtesy WORLD SOCCER



Mystery still shrouds Suarez's Spanish team

ONCE again the Spaniards head for a World Cup among the select band who, according to the international pundits, have a half-decent chance of winning it.

Significantly though, the bookmakers are offering only lukewarm odds on Luis Suarez's team.

After all, they've seen it all before.

This will be Spain's fourth consecutive World Cup finals, but they have yet to make an impact.

Against this backdrop, Spain head for Italy aiming to cast aside the ifs, the buts and the old refrain of QUIZAS, QUIZAS, QUIZAS and with the intention of fulfilling some of their long-dormant promises.

So far Suarez has done an impressive job since taking over from Munoz in the summer of 1988, albeit in a not-too-demanding qualifying group alongside Malta, Northern Ireland, Hungary and the Republic of Ireland.

On the credit side their tally of 20 goals in eight games was among

the healthiest in Europe, while the outstanding entry in the debut column was a 1-0 defeat in Dublin when Suarez's side showed little appetite for a robust, physical game.

Top-flight

Like his Italian counterpart Azeglio Vicini, Suarez reached the top flight via the under 21s and, like Vicini, has based his current side on many of the former disciples who reached the final of the European Championship in 1986.

On that occasion, Suarez beat Vicini after extra-time and penalties.

As a result, the current squad is full of youth, hunger and enthusiasm, but — even though as many as eight squad members could be Mexico survivors — short on experience.

The average is barely 15 caps and 10 of the

probable squad have under a dozen.

Suarez has been working hard to solve problems that have perplexed his predecessors — finding the right attacking partner for Emilio 'The Vulture' Butragueno at the head of his list.

Old story

Spain's Vulture Culture had hitherto been based on teaming him up with a target man such as Julio Salinas, whereas Suarez now consistently opts for Manolo, another short, stocky, pacy player who scores more regularly for Spain than he does for Atletico Madrid and who claims to enjoy his football more in the national team.

In defence, Suarez seemed to be veering towards a five-man formation based on Real Madrid's system of a sweeper, two markers

and two attacking full-backs pushed up into midfield.

But in recent games he has opted to field a more traditional four-man defence plus Barcelona's Luis Milla in a deep-lying role as mid-field pivot.

With the emphasis on speed and ball skills rather than brute force up front, it was no coincidence that midfielder Michel was Spain's top scorer last year.

But with midfielders urged to get forward, it became obvious when Spain threw away a 0-2 lead against Hungary that there was a serious danger of reckless over-revving which left the side brutally exposed to counter-attacks. Anchorman Milla is Suarez's answer.

Debuts

Milla is one of 19 players who made their international debuts during the first 15 months of the Suarez regime, and it may reflect his reservations about the habitual partnership of Andrinua and Sanchis that six of them have been central defenders (Patxi Salinas of Bilbao, Patxi Ferreira of Atletico Madrid, Alberto Gorriz of Real Sociedad, Ricardo Serna of Barcelona, Juanito Rodriguez of Zaragoza and Luis Manuel of Oviedo).

While Andoni Zubizarreta, the daddy of the side with nearly 50 caps is a fixture between the posts, the fierce competition in midfield means more headaches for Suarez, although Michel, Roberto and Milla are favourites to line up alongside a Martin Vazquez who has answered "goal-shy" taunts by hitting double figures for Real this season for the first time in his career.

Spain's long-term prospects in the finals could hinge on their opening Group E match against Uruguay, where the conservative axiom of 'avoiding defeat' may not be good enough.

Anything other than first place in the group would line them up for an immediate confrontation with Holland, Italy or West Germany if the first round has any resemblance to the form book.



Is this a preview of things to come in Italia '90? Dutch goalkeeper Hans van Breukelen tangles with Soviet ace Alexei Mikhailichenko under the watchful eye of Ronald Koeman in the final of Euro-88. Both teams are among the favourites in Italy.

Soviet club snares Yank

AN American soccer player, Dale Mulholland, has become the first from his country to join a Soviet professional club.

Twenty-five-year-old Mulholland arrived in Moscow last month after signing a contract with Lokomotiv — a team in the Soviet Second Division — and made his debut in a Soviet Cup match.

Mulholland's one-year contract gives him a monthly salary and bonuses, a two or three-room apartment rent-free, a car, free meals and a Russian teacher.

Lokomotiv coach Yuri Syomin says Mulholland will make the equivalent of about \$1,100 a month.

Mulholland, who comes from Tacoma, Washington, and has played professionally in the United States, plans to arrange player and coach exchanges with the Orlando Lions.

- The UEFA has announced that matches in the 1996 European championships must be played only in all-seater stadiums.
- Portuguese star Rui Barros is likely to return home next season now that Juventus have officially decided to part with him. Benfica and Porto are chasing the midfielder's signature.
- Hajduk Split, the First Division Yugoslav club which will tour Australia this year, created history by appointing a journalist as their club president. Zdravko Reic, works for SLO-BODNA DALMACIJA, took over three weeks ago.

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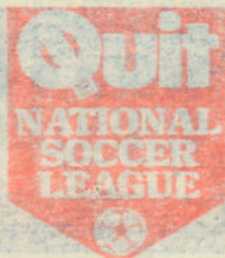
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Spanish ace Sanchis in action against Holland's Marco van Basten.



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